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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

MARVEL COMICS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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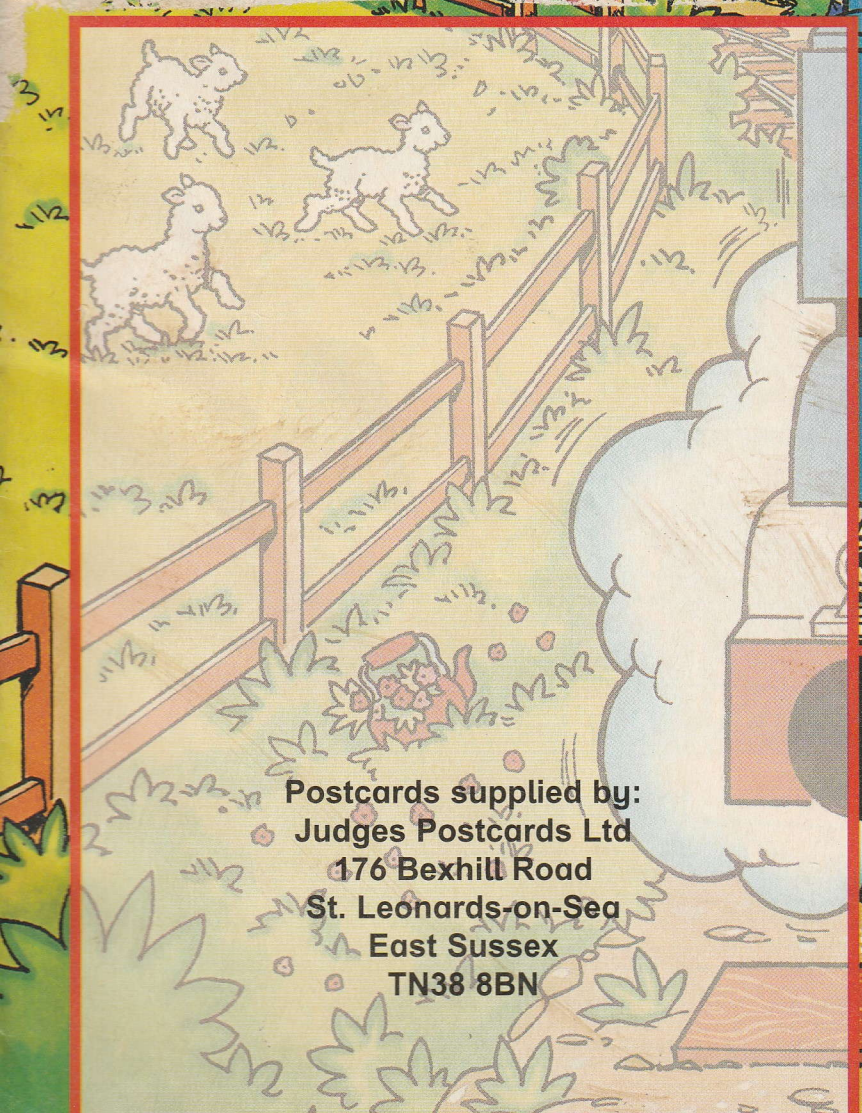

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Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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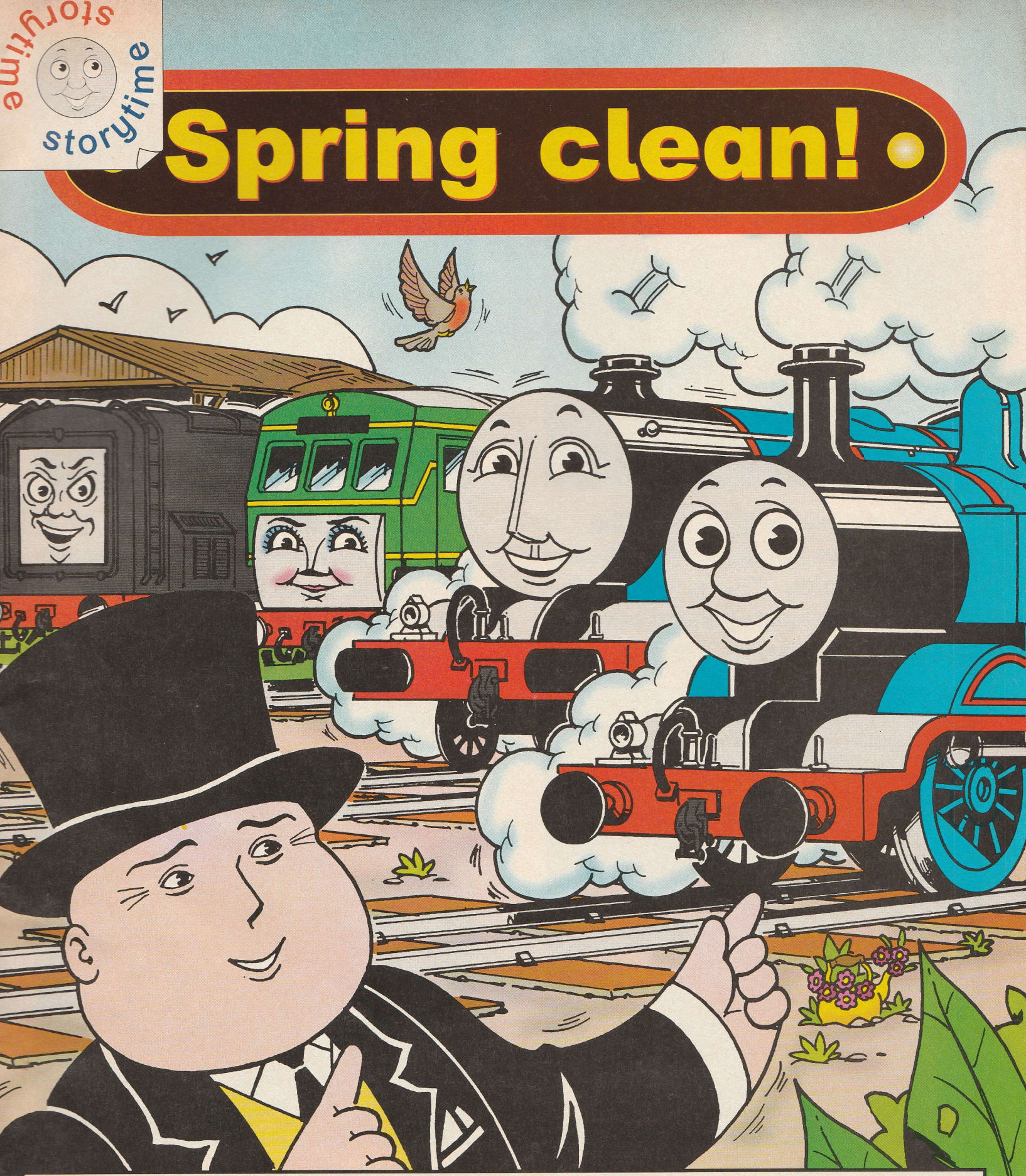
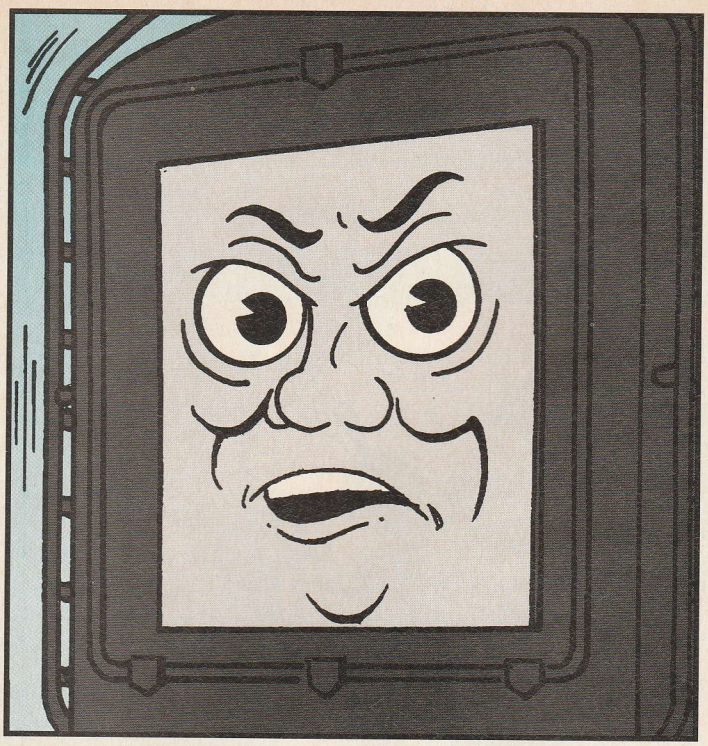
storytime

Spring clean!

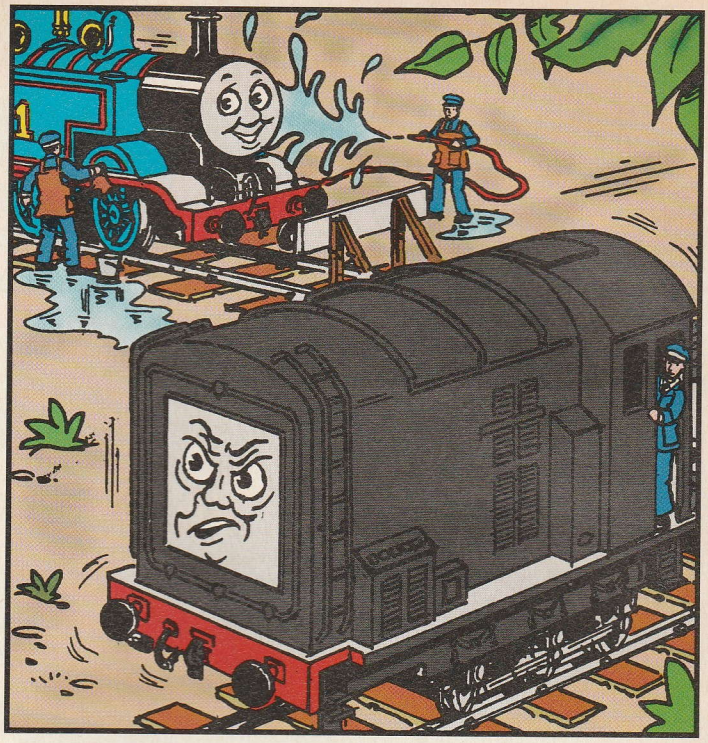


1. It was time for a spring clean at the Main Station. Workers busily painted the fences. The Lost Property Office was swept and tidied. The Stationmaster's office was decorated.

2. In the yard, the Fat Controller spoke to Thomas and the other engines. "This railway is to be tidied, spruced up and spring cleaned," he said. "And so are all of you!"

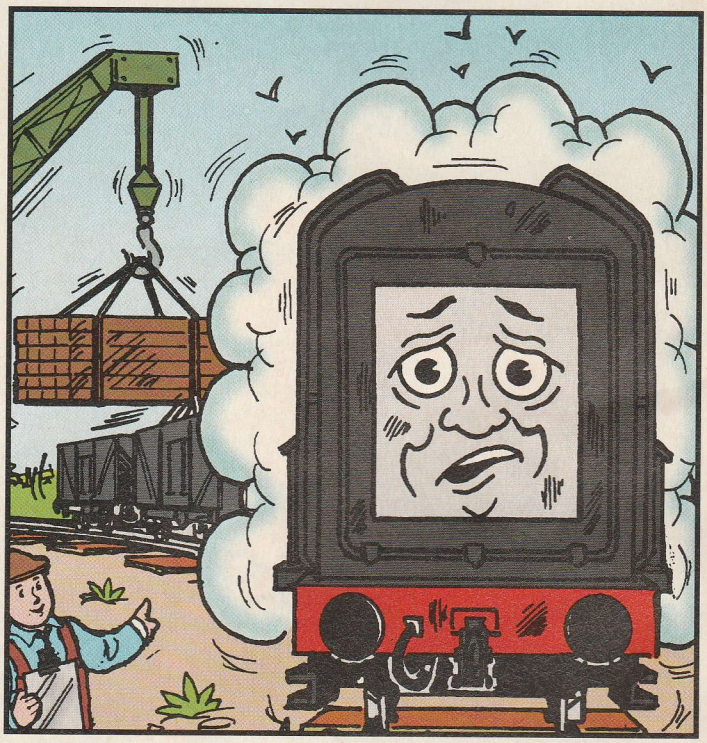


3. "Gordon will be first," said the Fat Controller. "Daisy is next, then Duck and Henry." Diesel was to be spring cleaned last. He was very cross. "It's not fair!" he hissed.

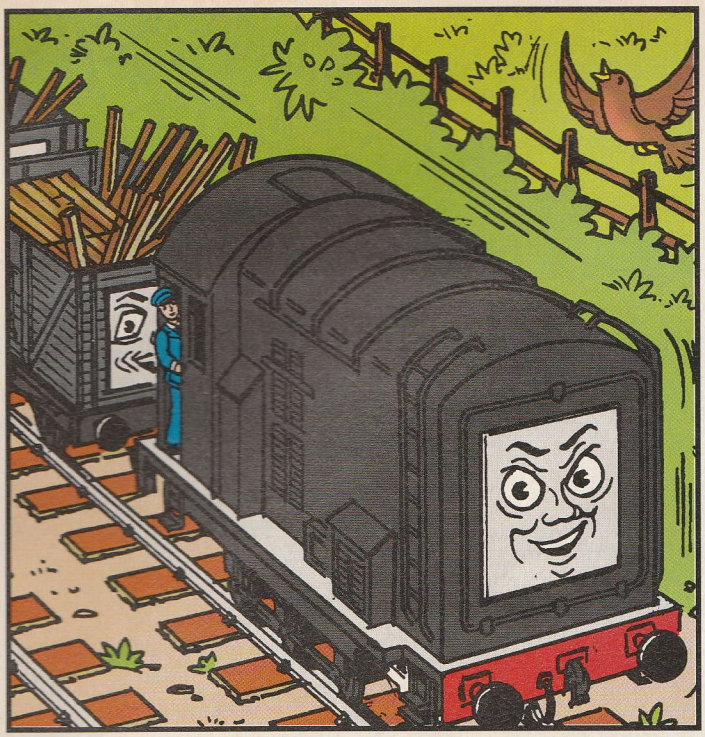


4. Later, Diesel was even more angry when the Fat Controller asked him to pull trucks for Thomas, who was being washed. Unkindly, Diesel made the empty trucks bump about.

5. "Be careful!" they shouted, nervously. But bad-tempered Diesel took no notice. He had to collect lots of timber and deliver it to some workmen at a building site.

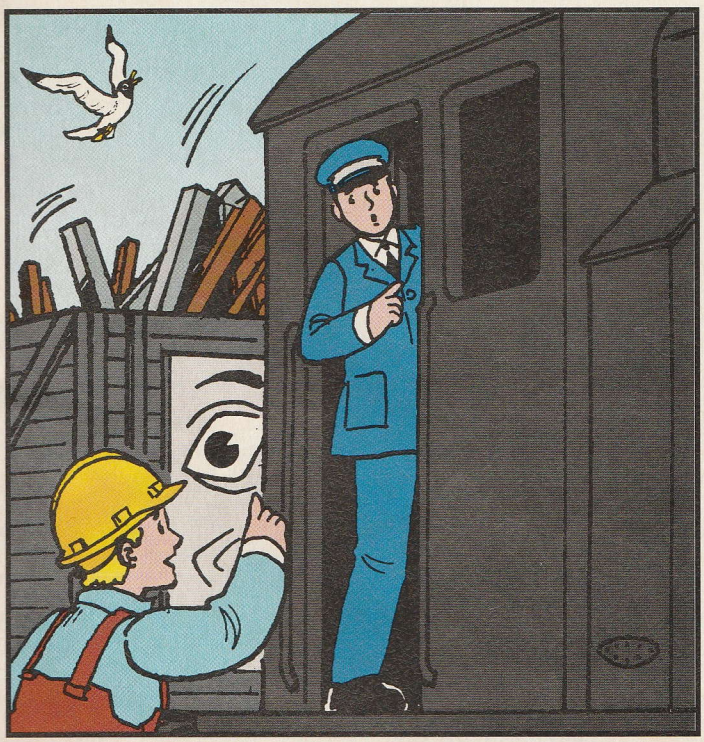


6. When Diesel reached the sawmill, a crane began to load the timber into his trucks. Clouds of sawdust blew all over Diesel. "I'm dirtier than ever!" he grumbled.



7. Soon Diesel set off again. Just before the building site was a low-lying section of track, which often flooded. "It won't today," thought Diesel. "The weather's been dry!"

8. But as he approached, Diesel saw one of the builders was waving urgently at him. "Stop!" the man shouted. "The track is underwater!" Diesel did not understand why.



9. The builder explained to Diesel's driver that workers had damaged an underground spring by mistake. Water was bubbling up beneath the railway track until the builders could stop it.

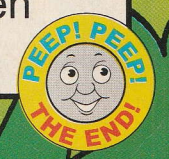
10. "Go very slowly, Diesel," said his driver. But Diesel could only think of getting back to the Main Station quickly, so he could be washed and polished, like the other engines.

11. Diesel rolled forwards. He went faster and faster. “Slow down!” cried his trucks. “Pah! Why worry about a little water?” Diesel laughed, nastily. He raced towards the flooded line.

12. Suddenly, to his horror, Diesel saw that the rails were completely underwater. He tried to slow down, but it was too late! VROOOSH! He sent a wave all over himself!

13. Diesel was soaked. He was still dripping wet when he arrived back at the Main Station yard. Thomas and the other engines looked grand, with their spotless, shiny paintwork.

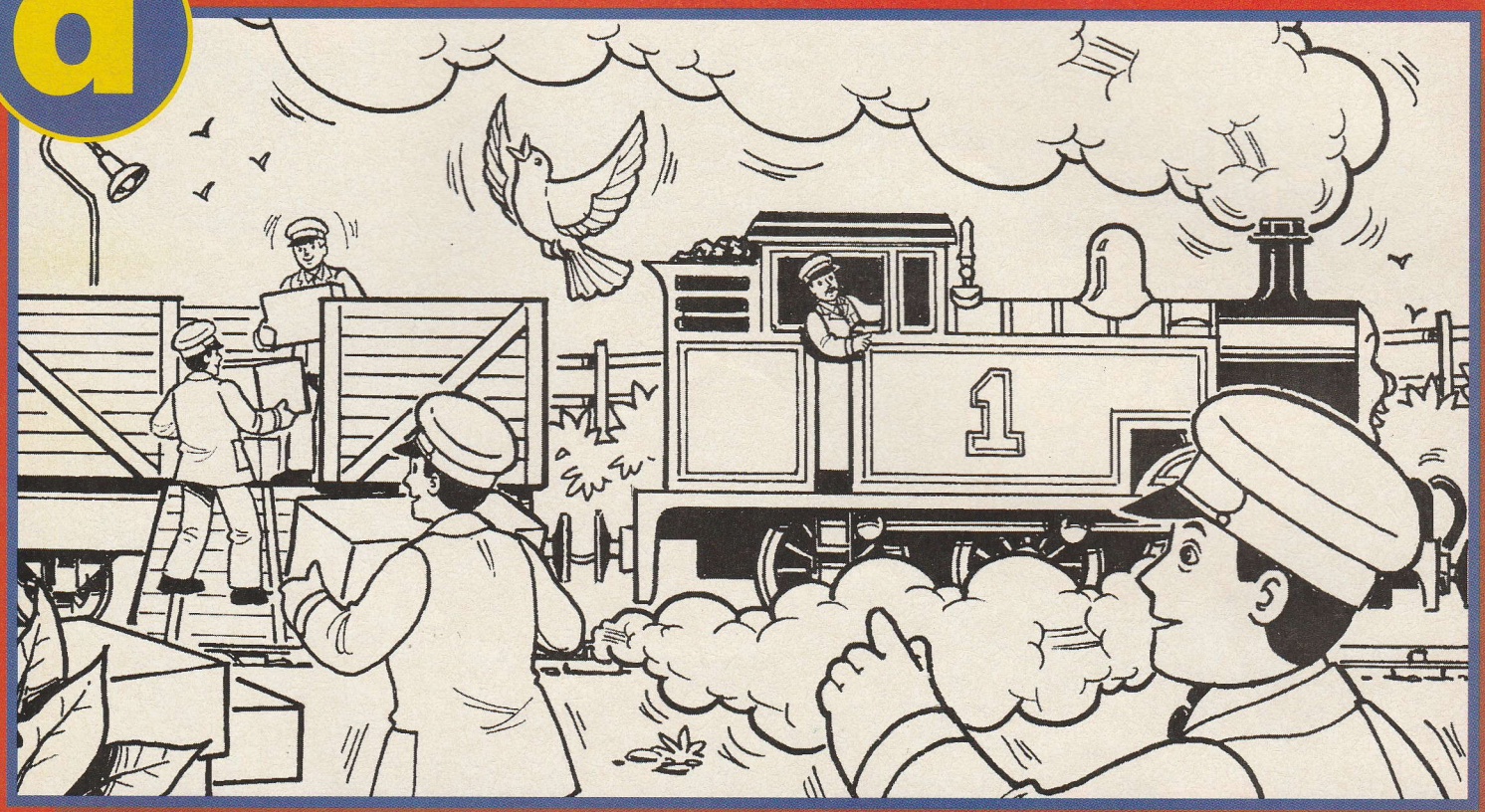
14. Diesel sulked. "It's all your own fault," sniffed Daisy. "Cheer up, Diesel," Percy teased him. "There's not a mark on you. You've been spring cleaned already!"



Spot the difference!

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the six changes? When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a



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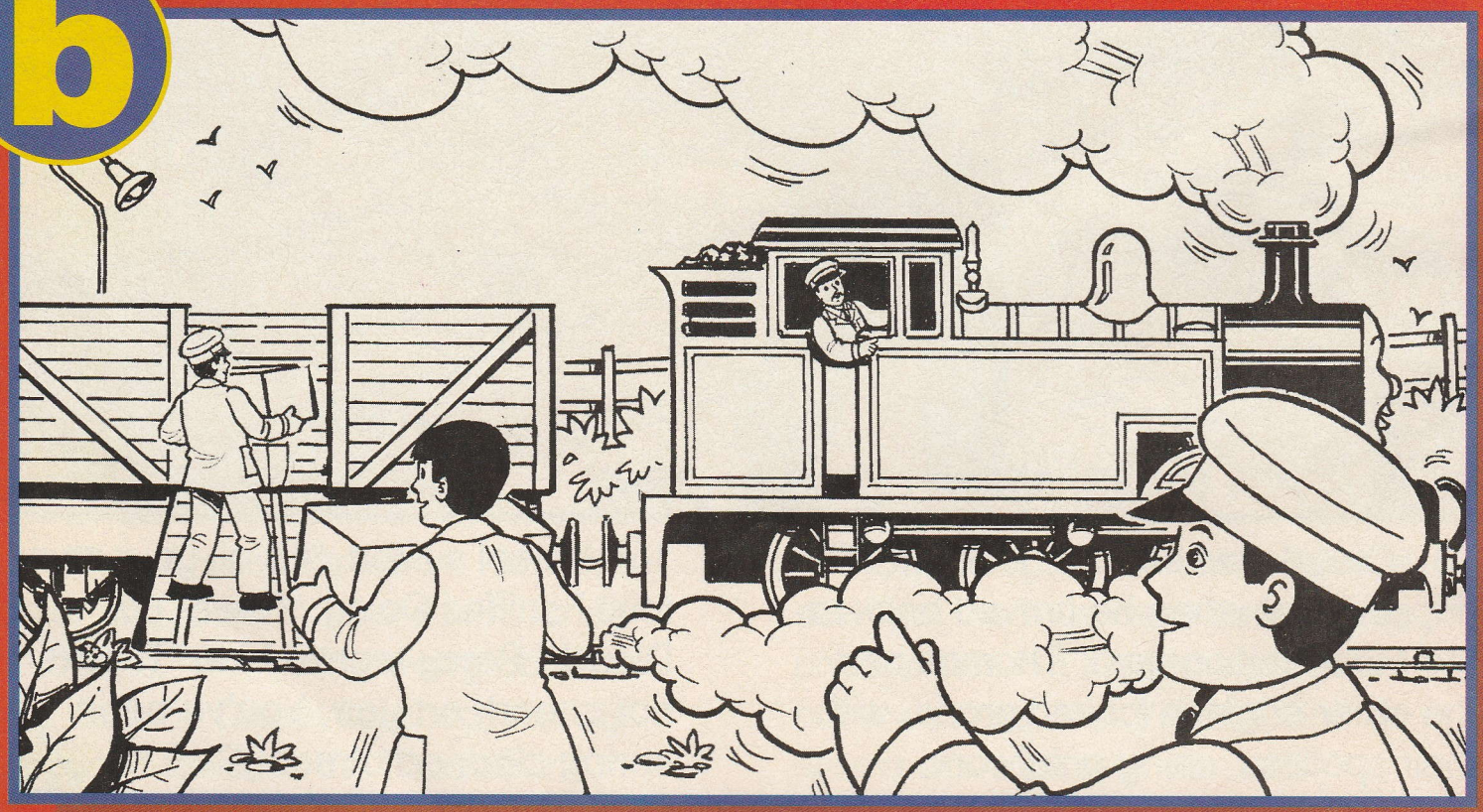
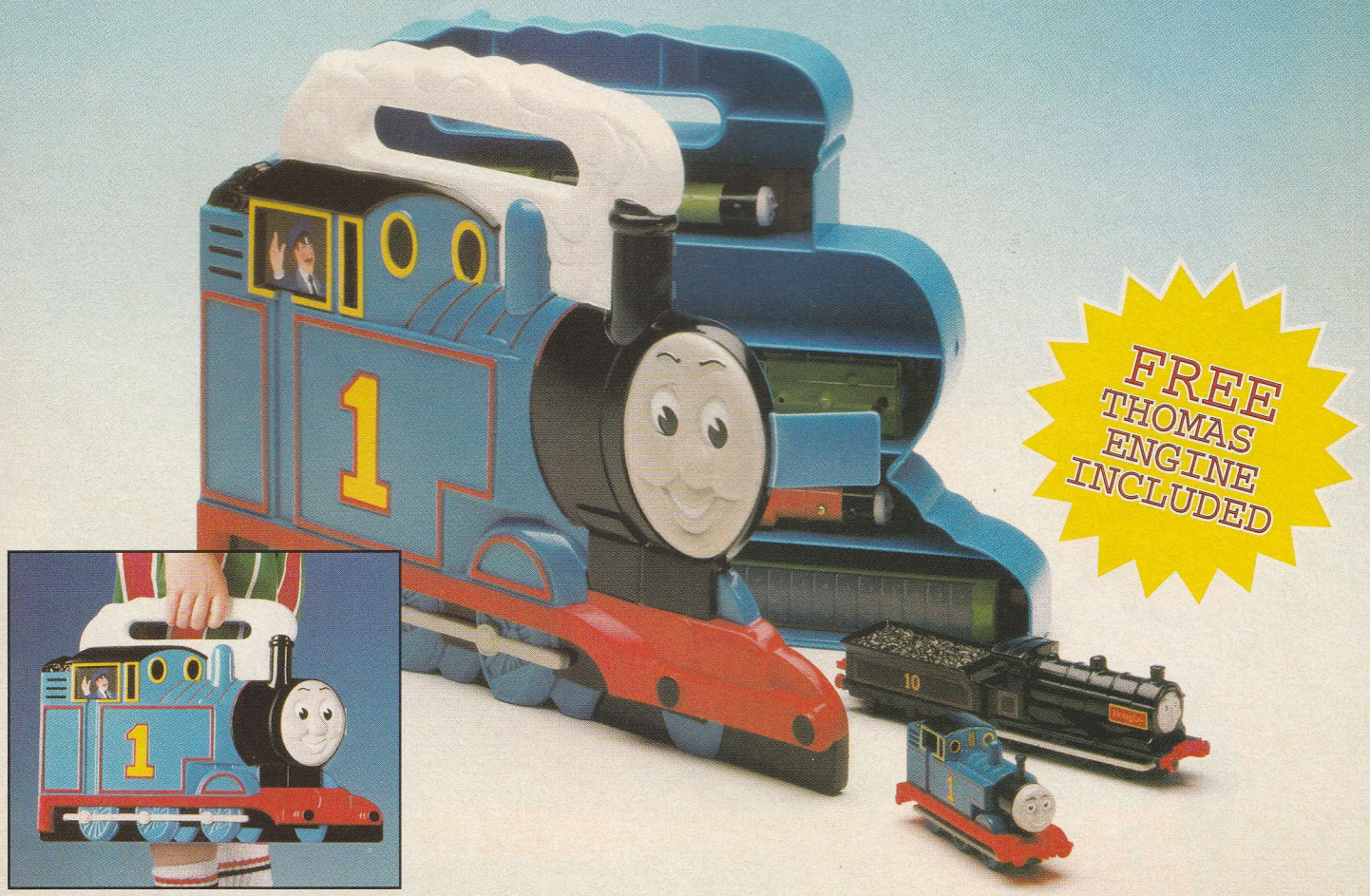


THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

CARRY CASE



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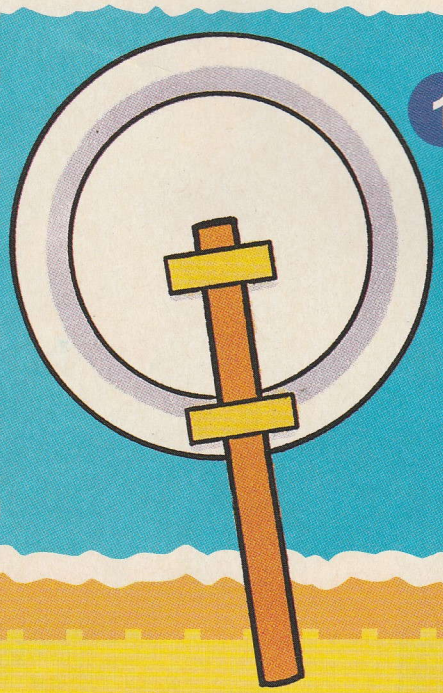
Britt ALLCROFT

You can do it!

On Mother's Day, we are going to give our grandmother some special flowers - paper ones! They look very pretty and they last for a long time! Why don't you make some flowers for Mother's Day? Here's how :

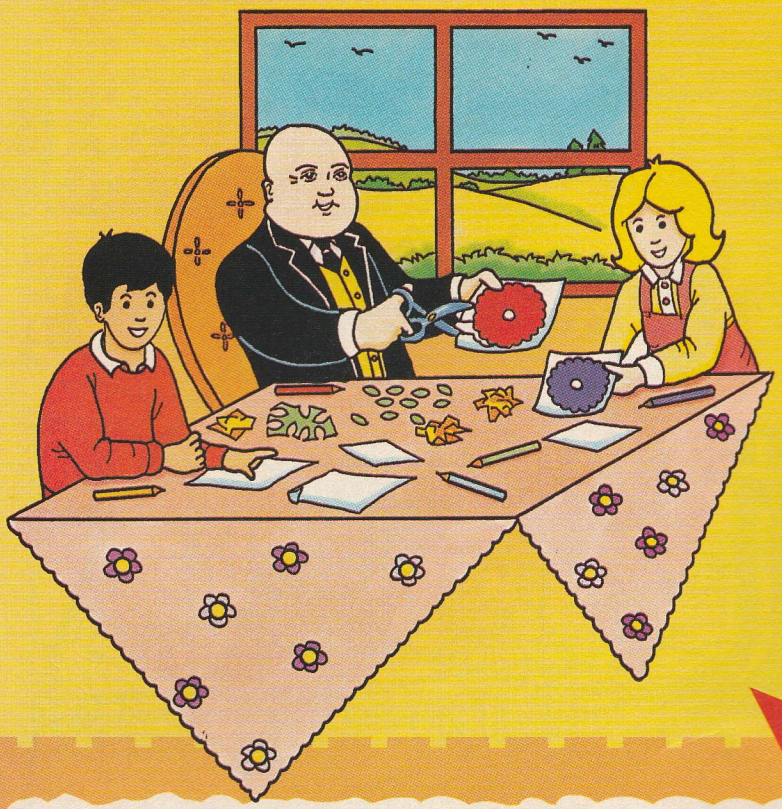
What you need:

- Small paper plates
- Garden or lollipop sticks
- Colouring pencils or paints
- Crepe paper in lots of pretty colours
- Safety scissors
- Sticky tape
- Non-toxic glue



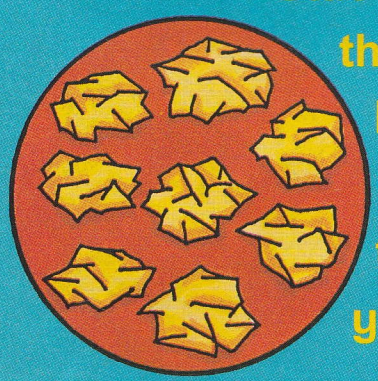
1 Use sticky tape to fix a stick to the back of a paper plate.

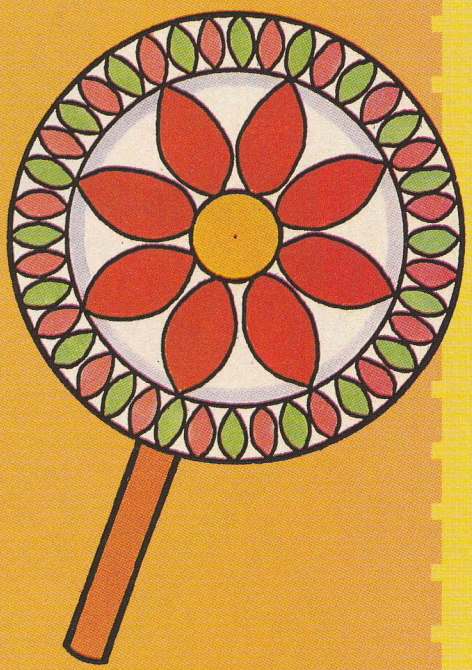
2 The easiest way to make paper flowers is just to paint pretty petals onto the plate!



3 Ask a grown-up to help you cut out petals from the crepe paper. Our grandad has lots of good ideas for different petal shapes!

4 Glue the petals around the plate. Make seeds by screwing up tiny pieces of paper. Glue them to the centre of your flower.

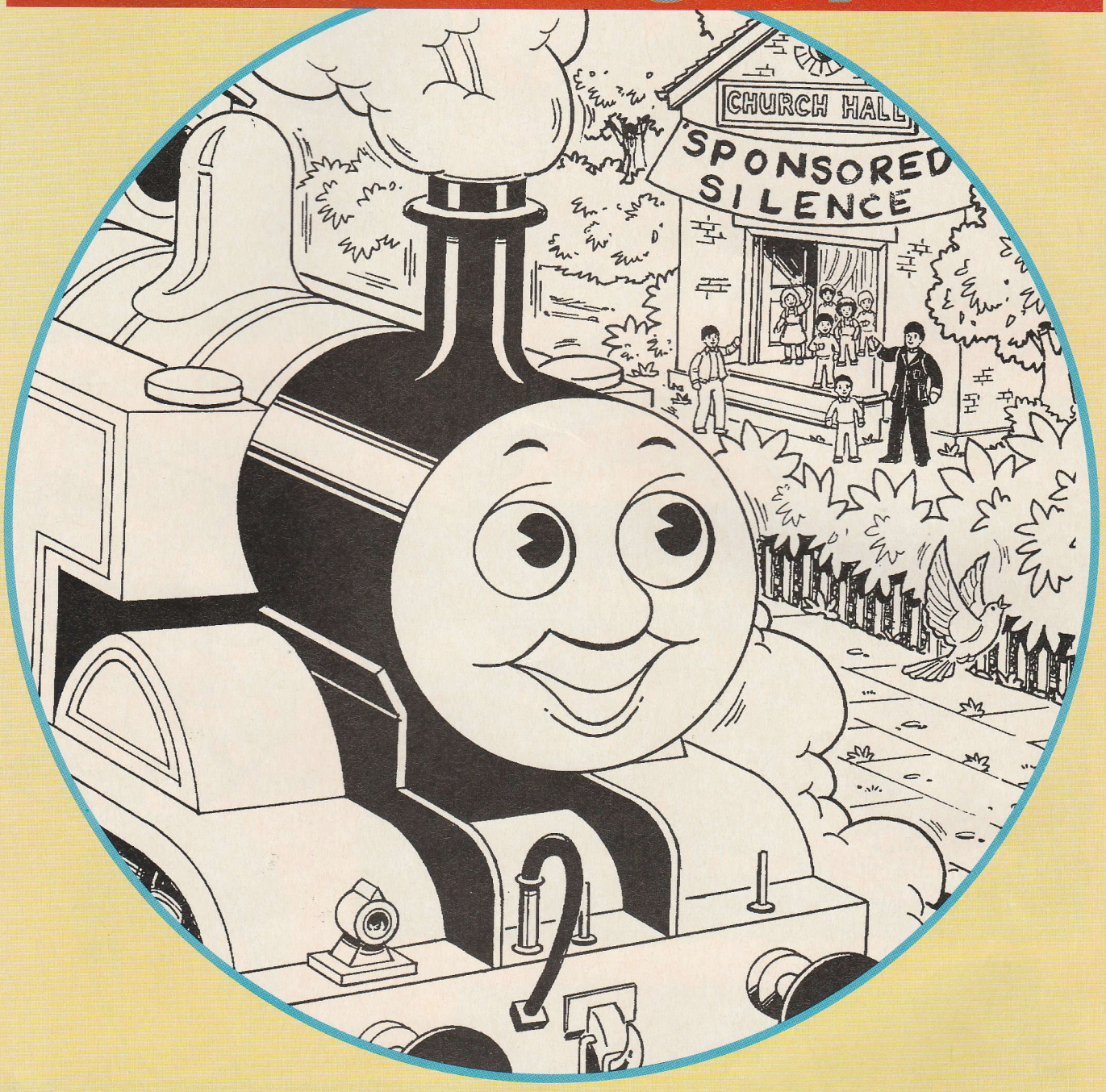




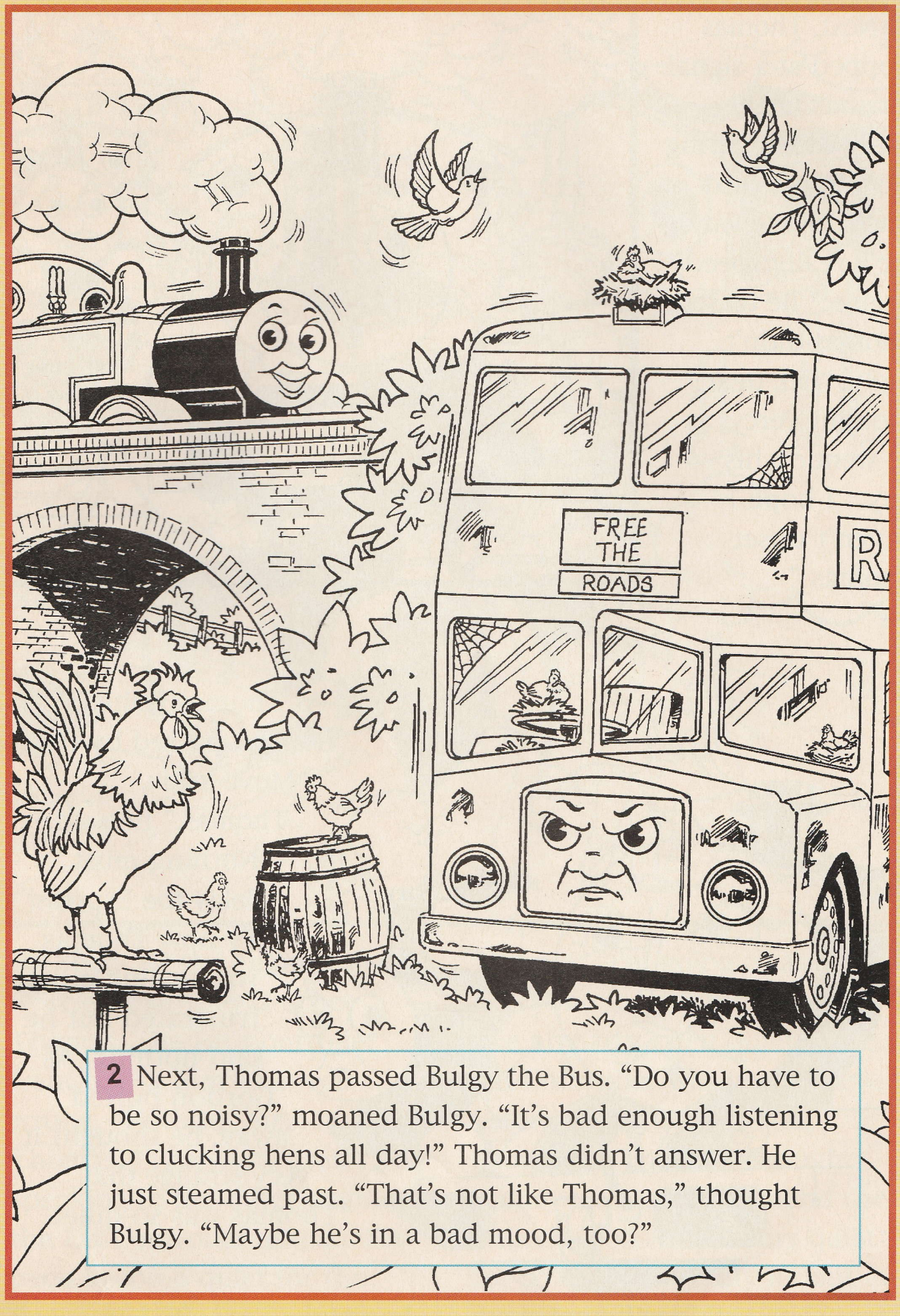
5 Your flowers can be any colour you like, and they aren't just for Mother's Day! You can make them as lovely birthday or Easter presents as well!

A read & colour story

Thomas stays quiet!

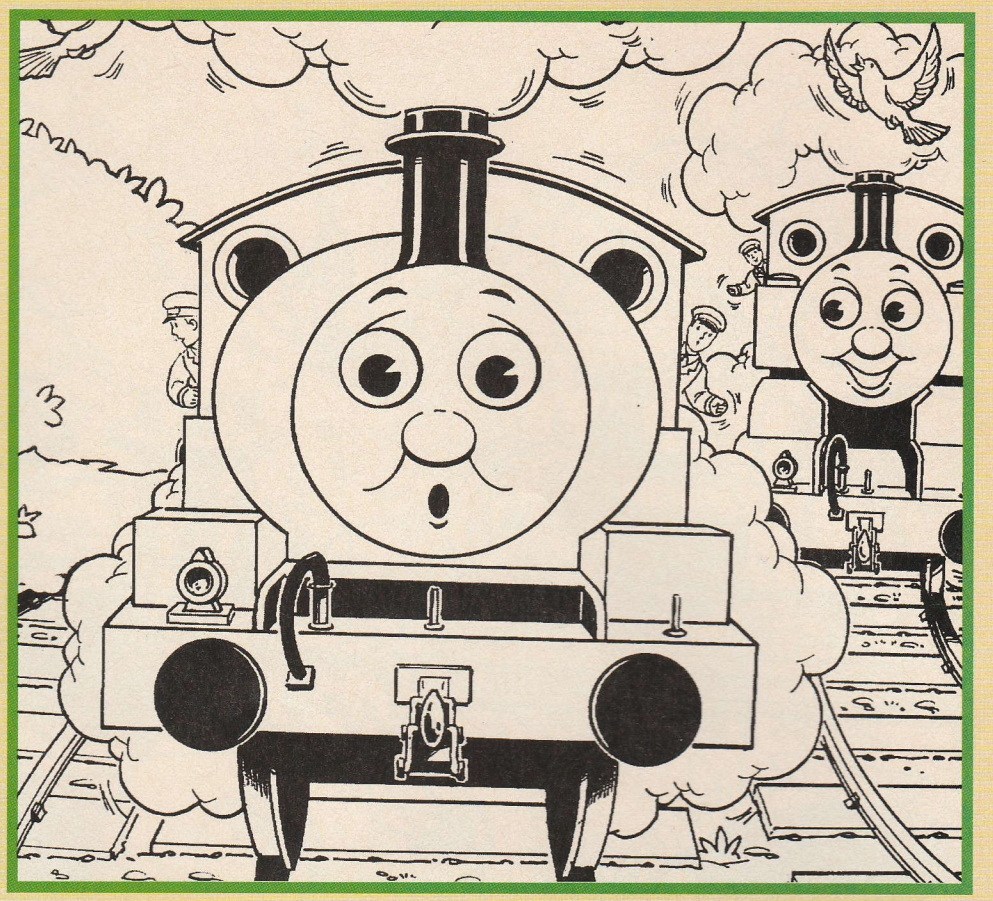


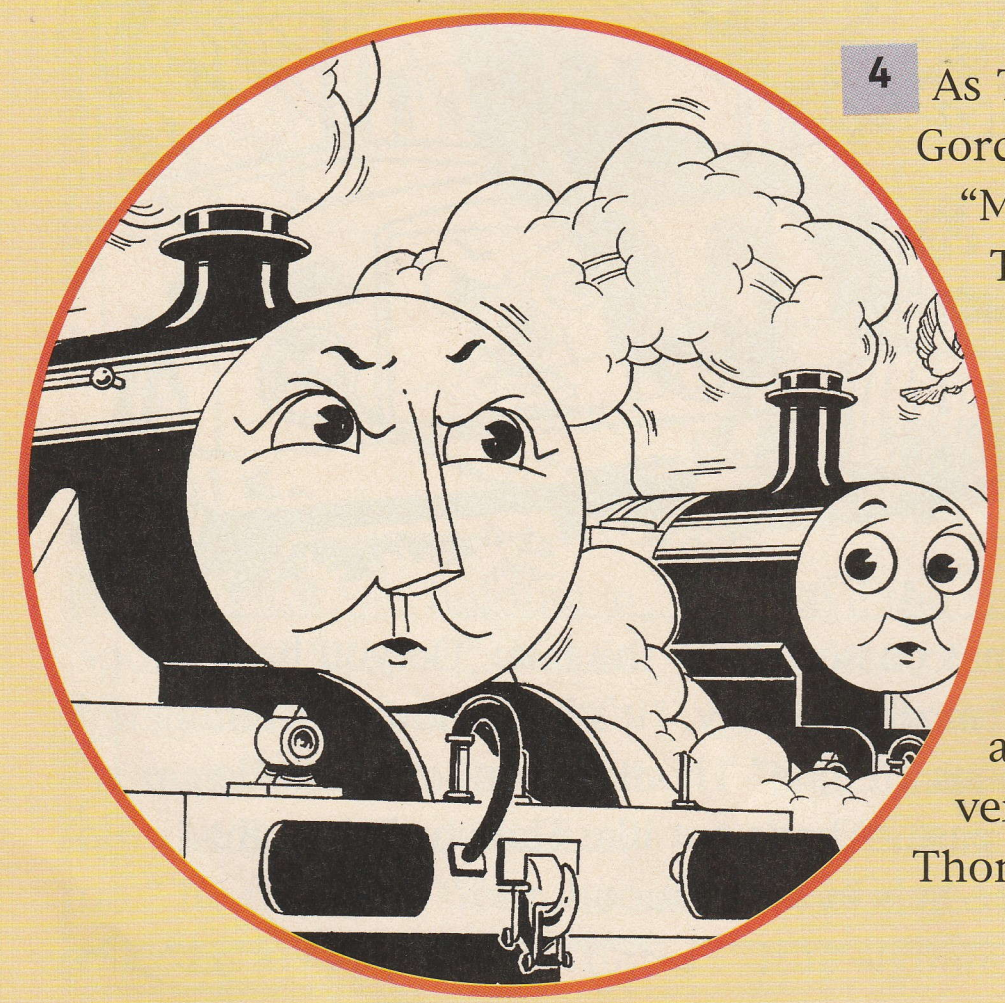
1 The Vicar was holding a 'Sponsored Silence', to raise money for the church roof. Thomas decided to help. "I'll join the Sponsored Silence, too," he thought. When he had collected his passengers from the station, the Stationmaster gave the signal and Thomas pulled off. Usually he gave a friendly whistle to the signalmen as he left but today was different. Thomas left the station silently. "That's strange," the signalmen thought. "What could be wrong with Thomas?"



2 Next, Thomas passed Bulgy the Bus. "Do you have to be so noisy?" moaned Bulgy. "It's bad enough listening to clucking hens all day!" Thomas didn't answer. He just steamed past. "That's not like Thomas," thought Bulgy. "Maybe he's in a bad mood, too?"

3 Next, Thomas stopped at a signal. Seconds later, Percy came tearing past on the next track. "Make way for a really speedy engine!" he teased. Thomas didn't reply. "Oh, dear," thought Percy, as he went on his way. "I hope I haven't upset Thomas."

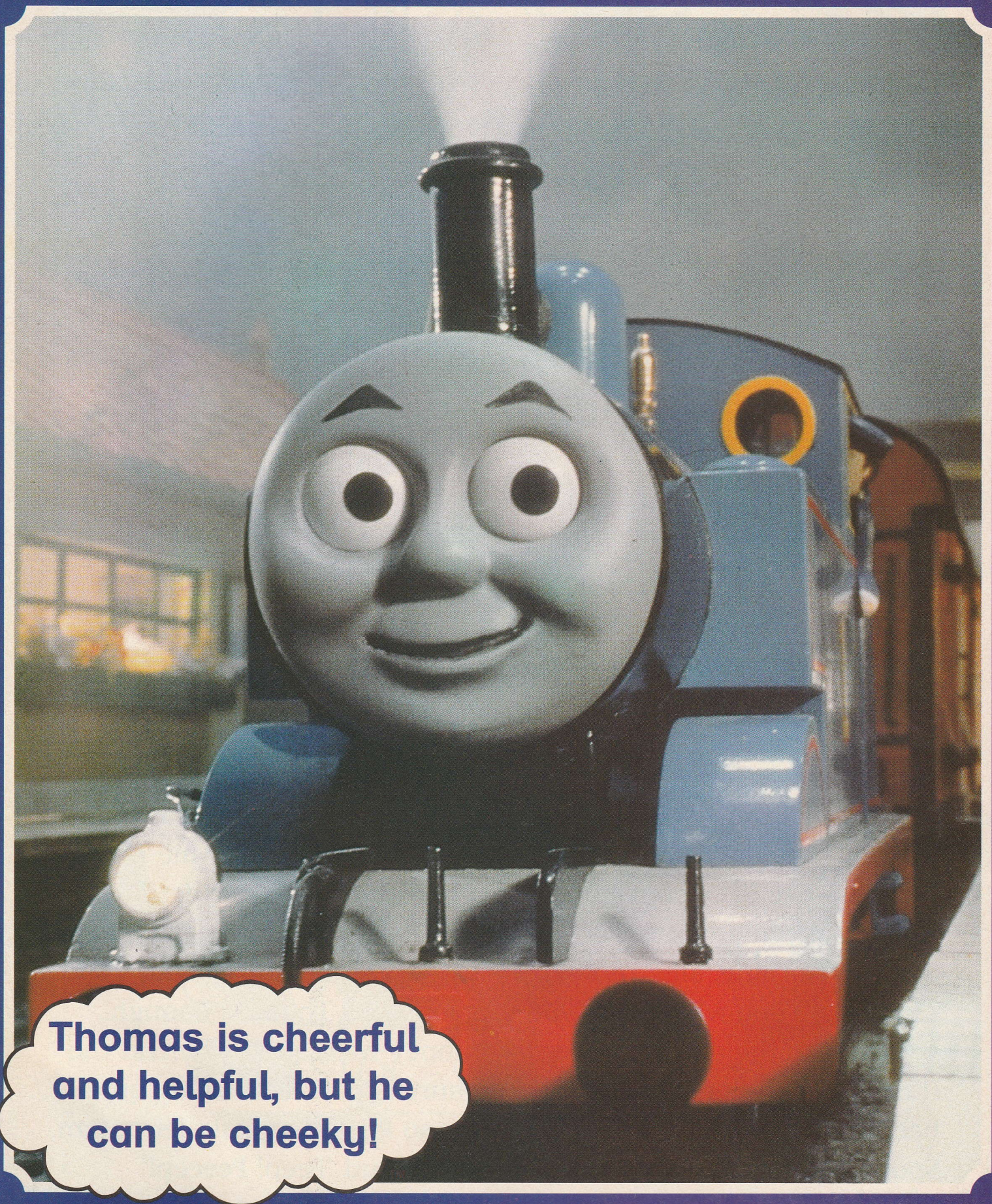




4 As Thomas waited, Gordon passed by too. "Move aside, Thomas," he said. "Nothing must delay the Express!" By now Thomas was feeling quite frustrated but he said nothing. As Gordon puffed away, he thought it very strange that Thomas was so quiet.

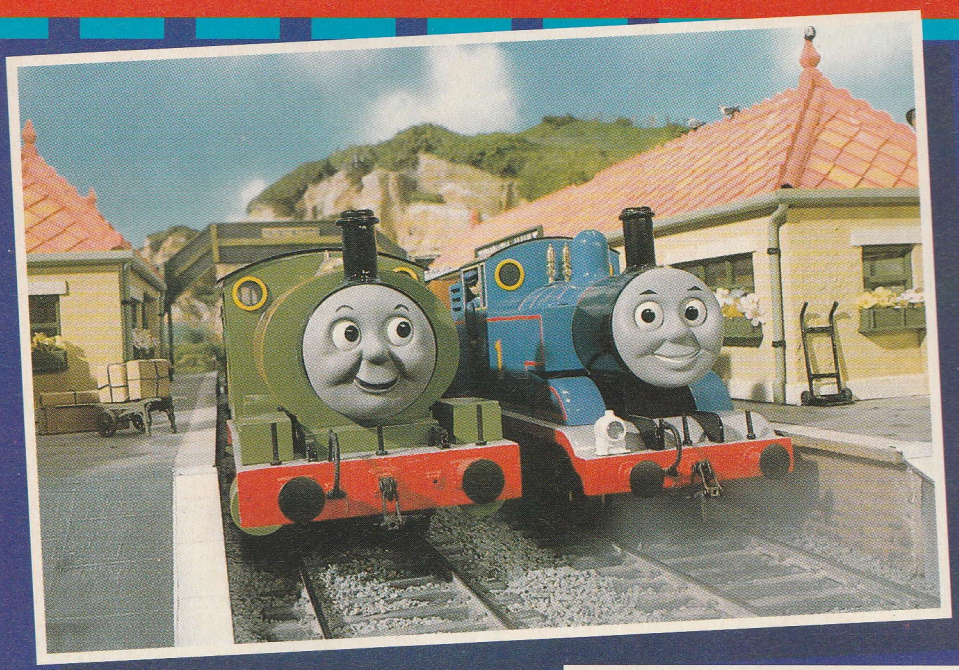
5 Soon, all the engines were worried that they'd upset Thomas. The Fat Controller went to ask him what was wrong. "Nothing, Sir," replied Thomas. "Then why aren't you speaking to the other engines?" the Fat Controller asked. "I've been keeping quiet for the Sponsored Silence," explained Thomas. "I'm going to ask everyone to sponsor me now I've **already** been quiet." The Fat Controller was very relieved. Later, all the railway staff sponsored Thomas. Enough money was raised to mend the church roof! After being quiet for so long, he gladly let out an extra loud 'Peep! Peeeep!'

All about



Thomas is cheerful and helpful, but he can be cheeky!

Thomas!

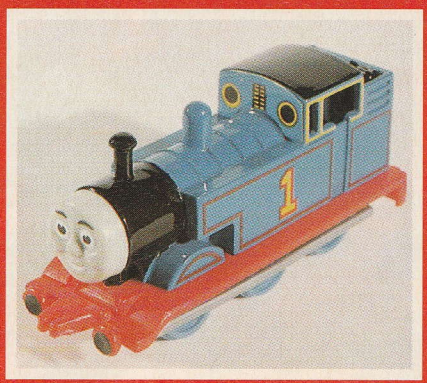


Thomas and Percy are great friends. They tease each other but will help each other too!

As a reward for being Really Useful, Thomas was given a branch line of his own!

Win a model Thomas!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Thomas from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas model competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, Arundel House, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX by March 26 1996. The first five names out of a hat after the closing date will win their very own Thomas!



storytime

Guard duty!

Thomas had been to the Big Harbour to collect a herd of sheep, which had been shipped from the Mainland. He was taking them to a farm on his branch line, where they would be put out to graze.

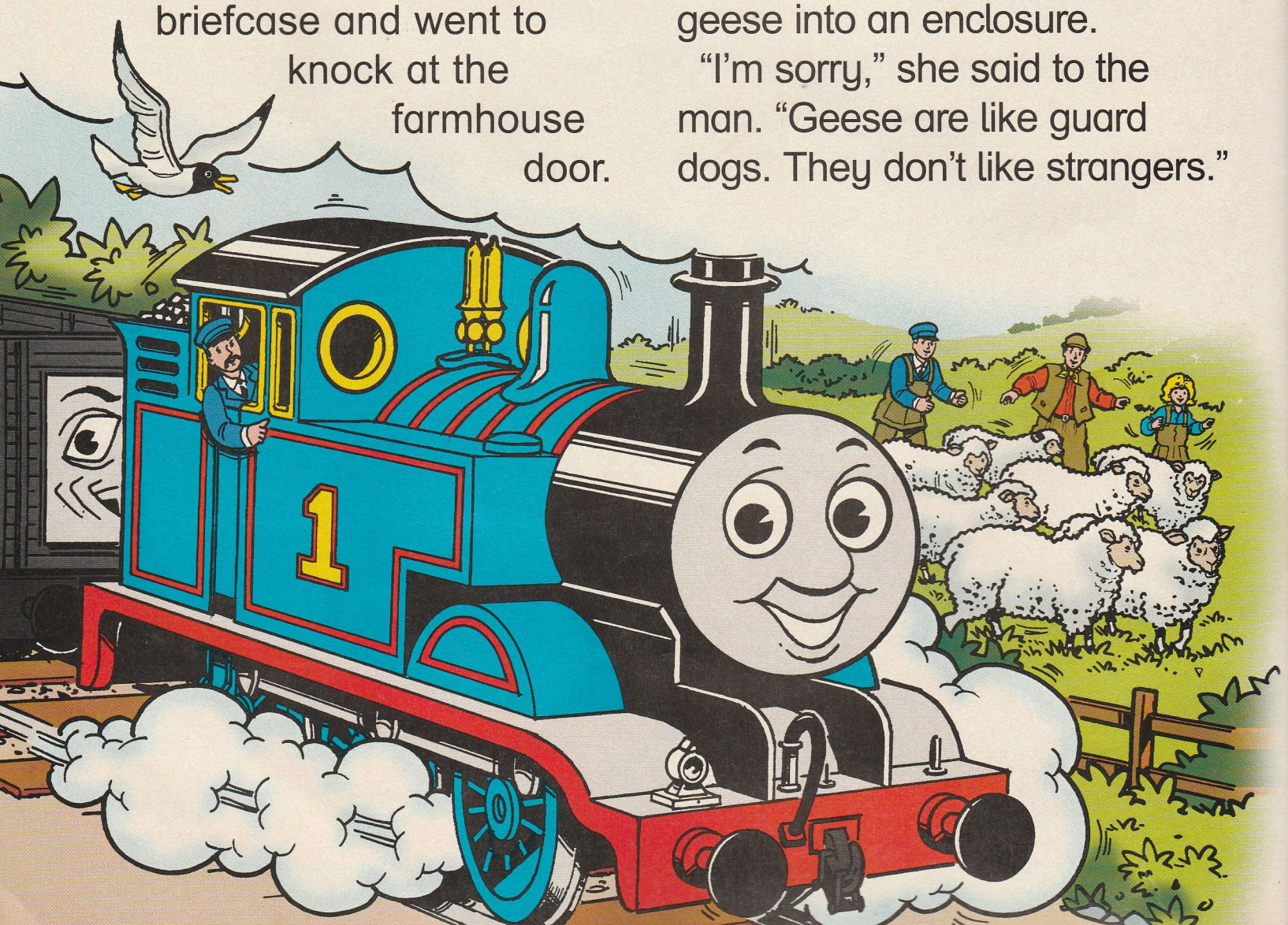
As Thomas rolled into a siding near the farm, he saw a man getting out of a car. The man picked up a smart briefcase and went to knock at the farmhouse door.

Suddenly, some big geese came around the corner of the house and began to run towards the man. They made a loud, honking noise. The man gave a yell of alarm and ran towards Thomas.

"Help!" he called.

Luckily, the farmer's daughter appeared from the back of the house. She quickly herded the geese into an enclosure.

"I'm sorry," she said to the man. "Geese are like guard dogs. They don't like strangers."



The man explained that he was a travelling salesman. He had hoped to sell the farmer some new tools for his farm. But now all he wanted to do was leave without selling anything!

When the salesman had driven away, Thomas's crew helped the farmer and his daughter to unload the sheep into a field. Thomas waited in the siding, and watched the geese. But soon he realised that the gate to their enclosure was not closed properly. Thomas spotted one of the geese escaping. He called to his guard, who told the farmer.

"The goose won't go far," said the farmer. "We'll soon find it."

He thanked Thomas's crew for their help with the sheep. Then the driver, fireman and guard returned to Thomas.

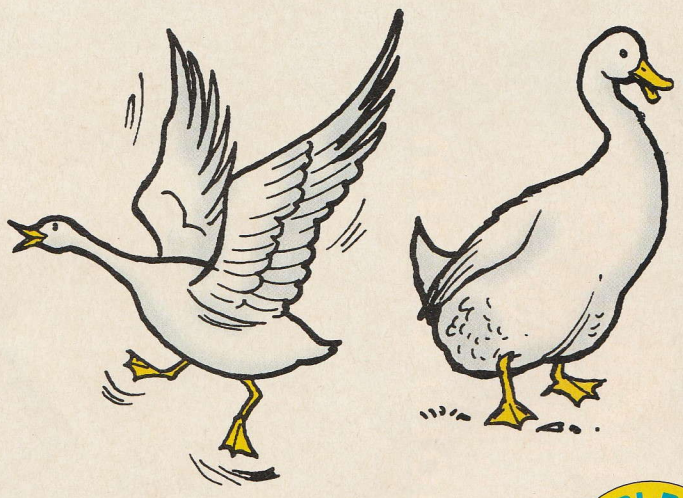
Thomas's guard climbed into his van -- then he quickly climbed out again! He was followed by a flapping, honking goose!

"So that's where it got to!" laughed the farmer's daughter.

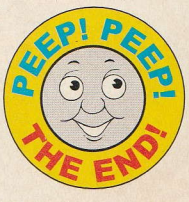
The guard climbed up into Thomas's cab, while the farmer caught the goose and took it back to its enclosure.

"I left the guard's van door open. The goose must have flown in," said the guard.

"I think that goose wanted to be a railway guard!" smiled Thomas, as he puffed happily on his way.

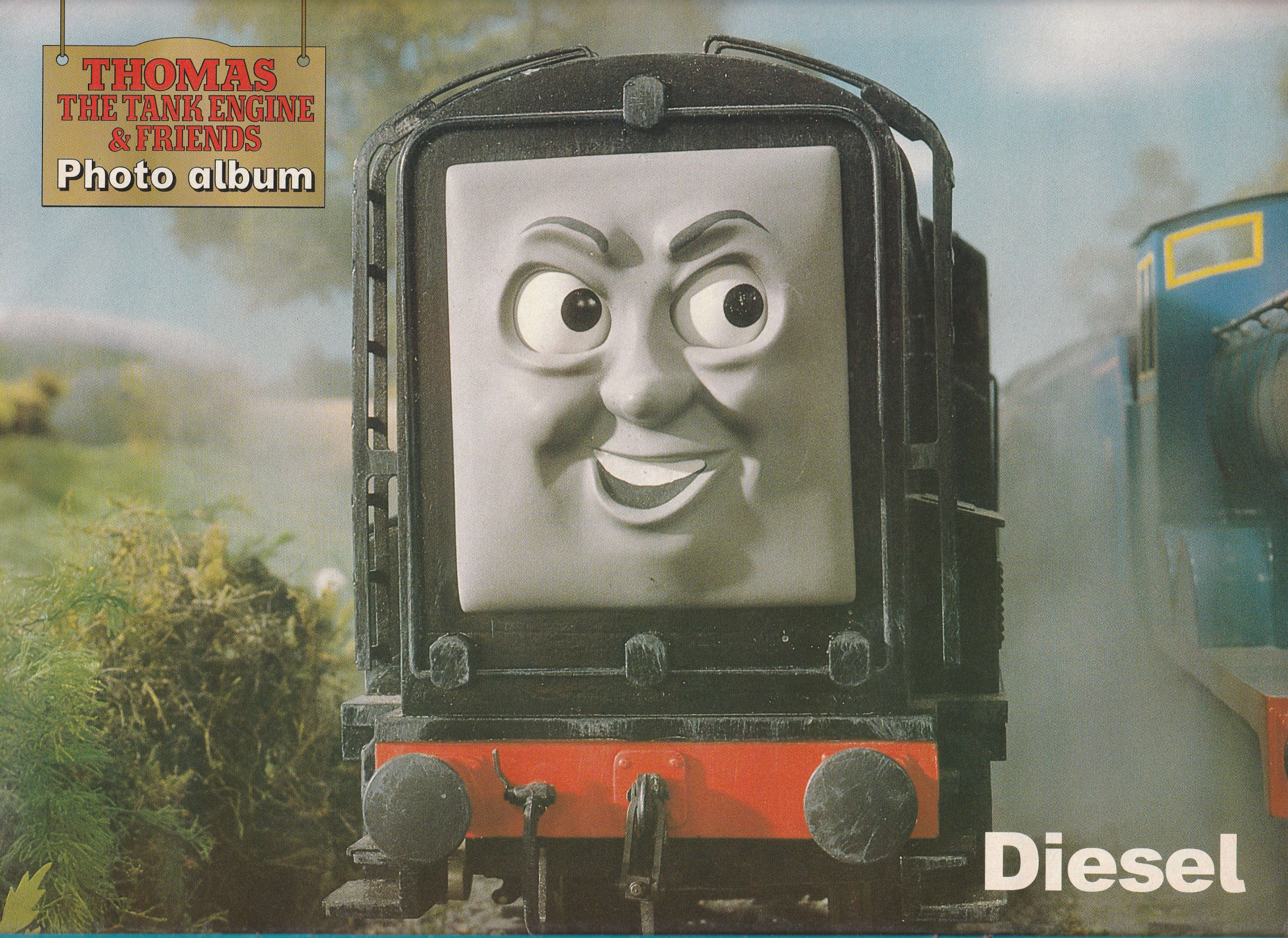


geese



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

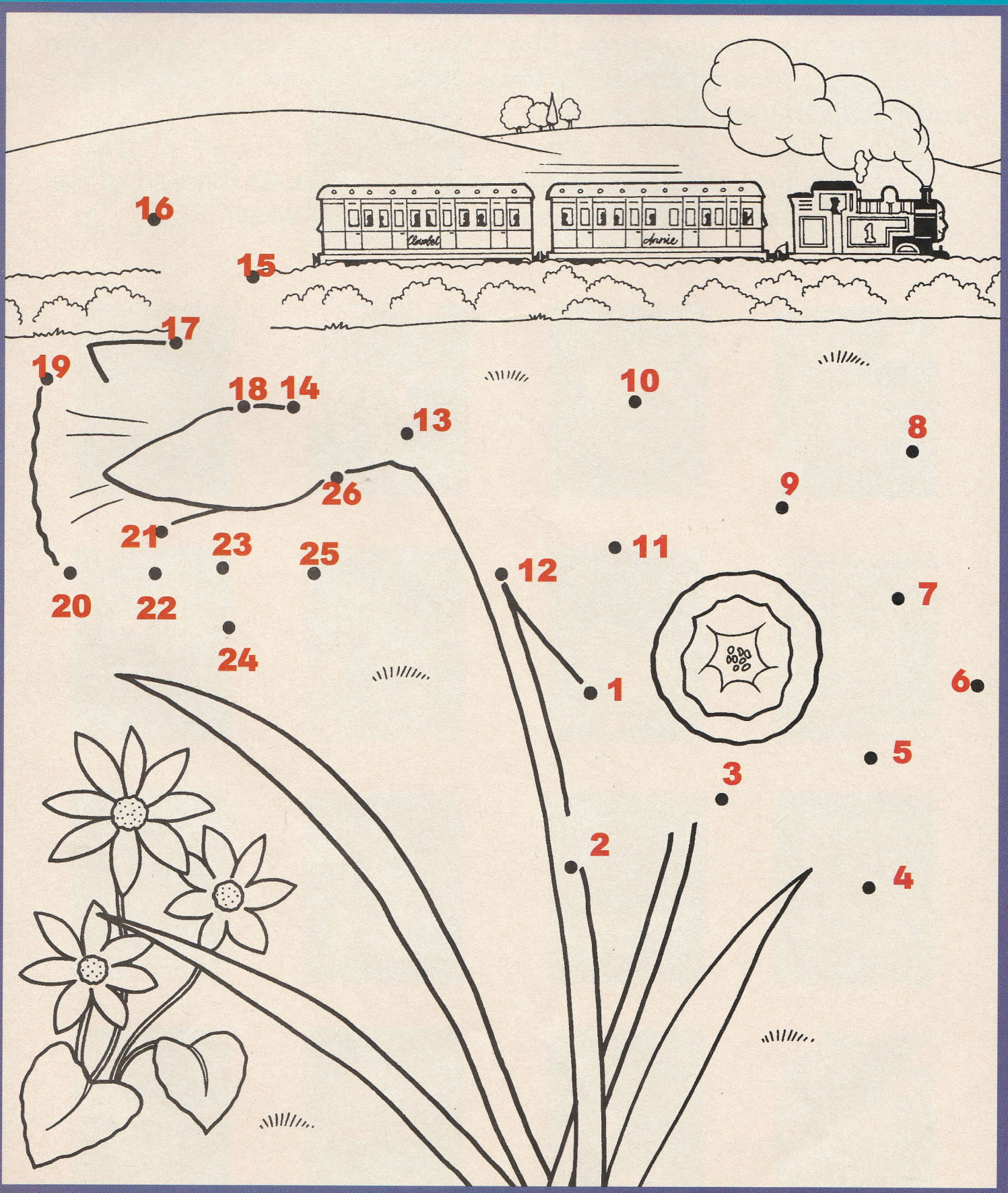
Photo album



Diesel

Dot to dot!

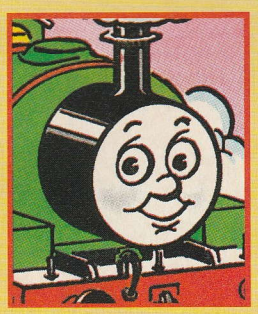
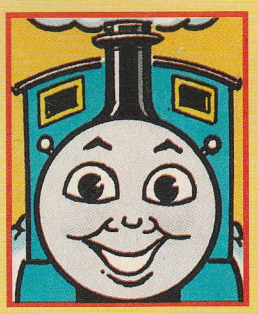
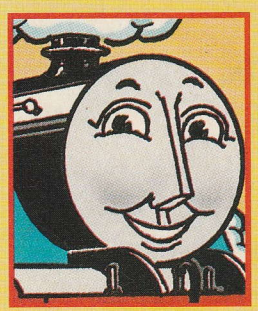
Join the dots to see a spring flower!

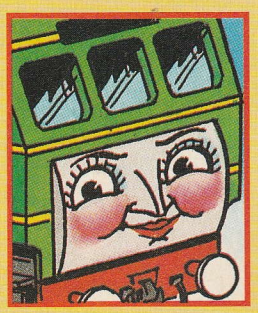
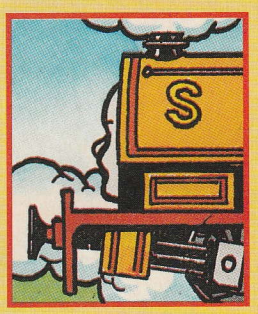


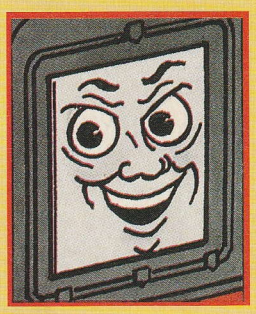
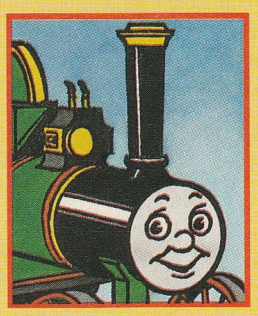
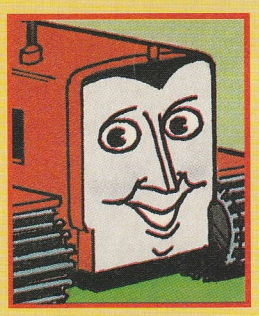
When you have finished colour this page!

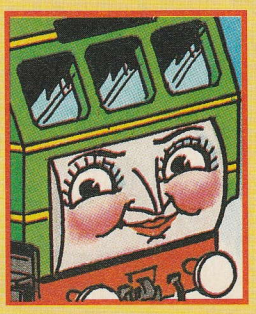
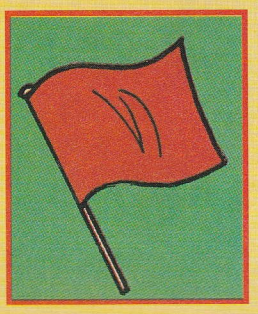
Engine snap!

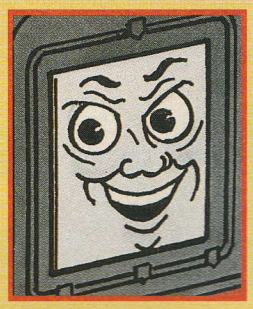
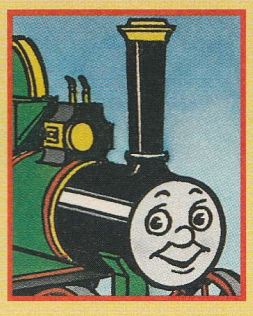
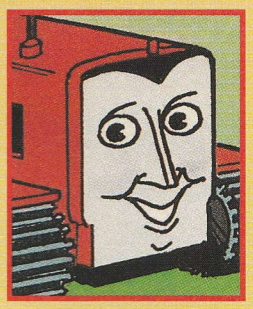
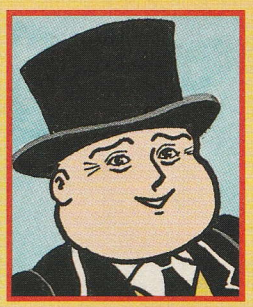
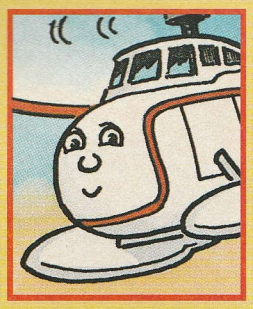
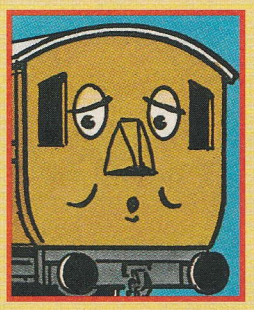
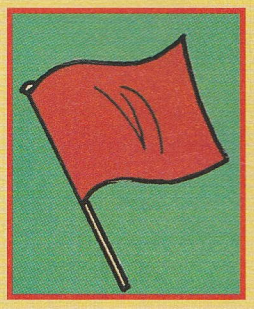
Here's an exciting game featuring all of your engine friends. To play, stick these two pages onto some thin card and then get a grown-up to cut out the playing cards. Share the cards out with a friend and place them face down on the table. Take it in turns to reveal your cards, laying them face up. When you see two cards with the same engine on them, put your hands over the cards and shout "Peep! Peep!" The first player to do this wins the cards. At the end of the game, the person with most cards wins!

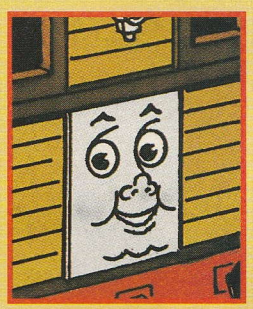




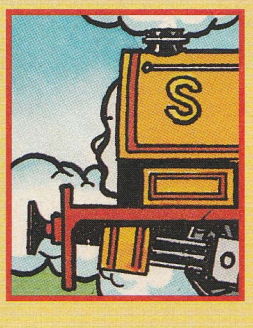



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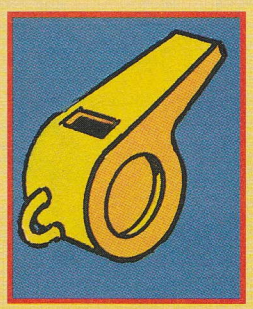
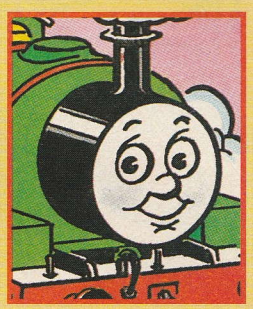
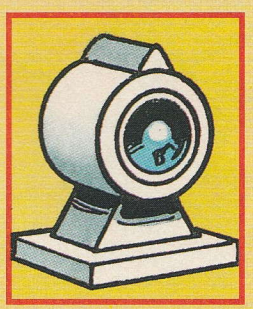
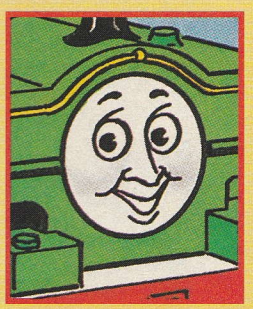
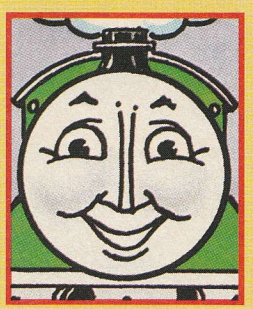
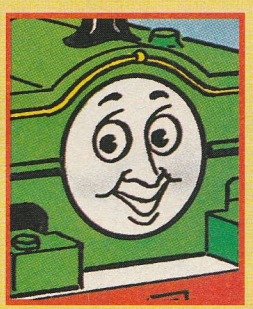
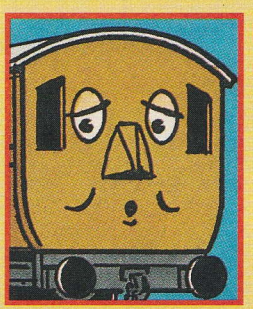
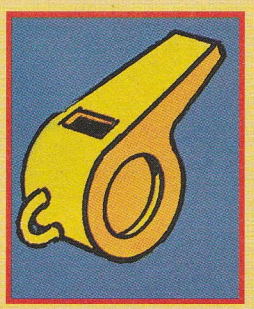
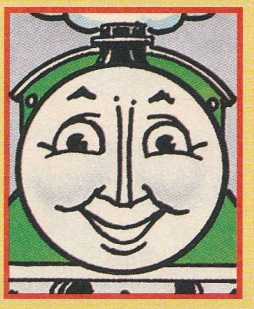
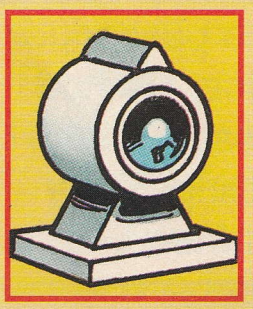
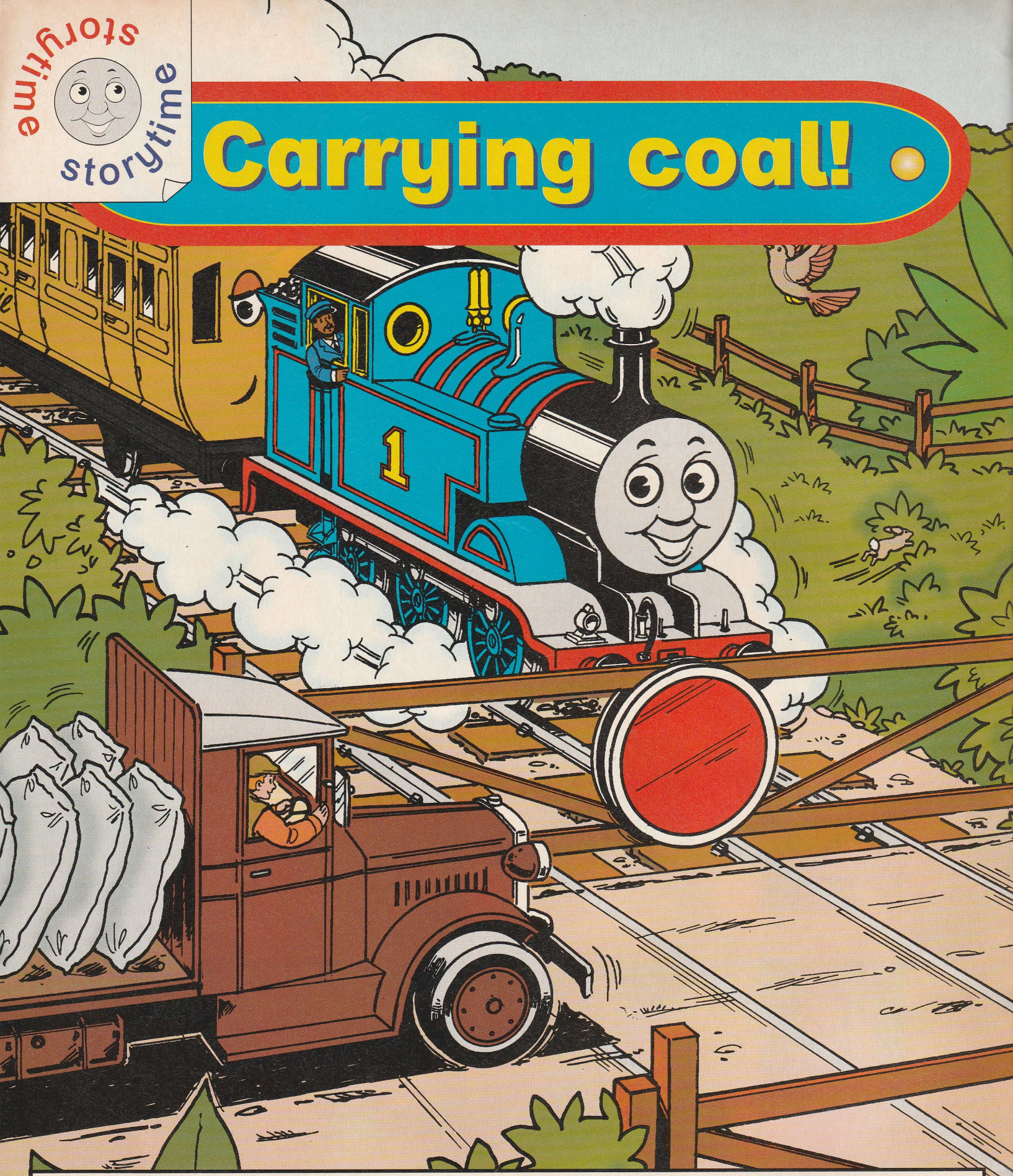









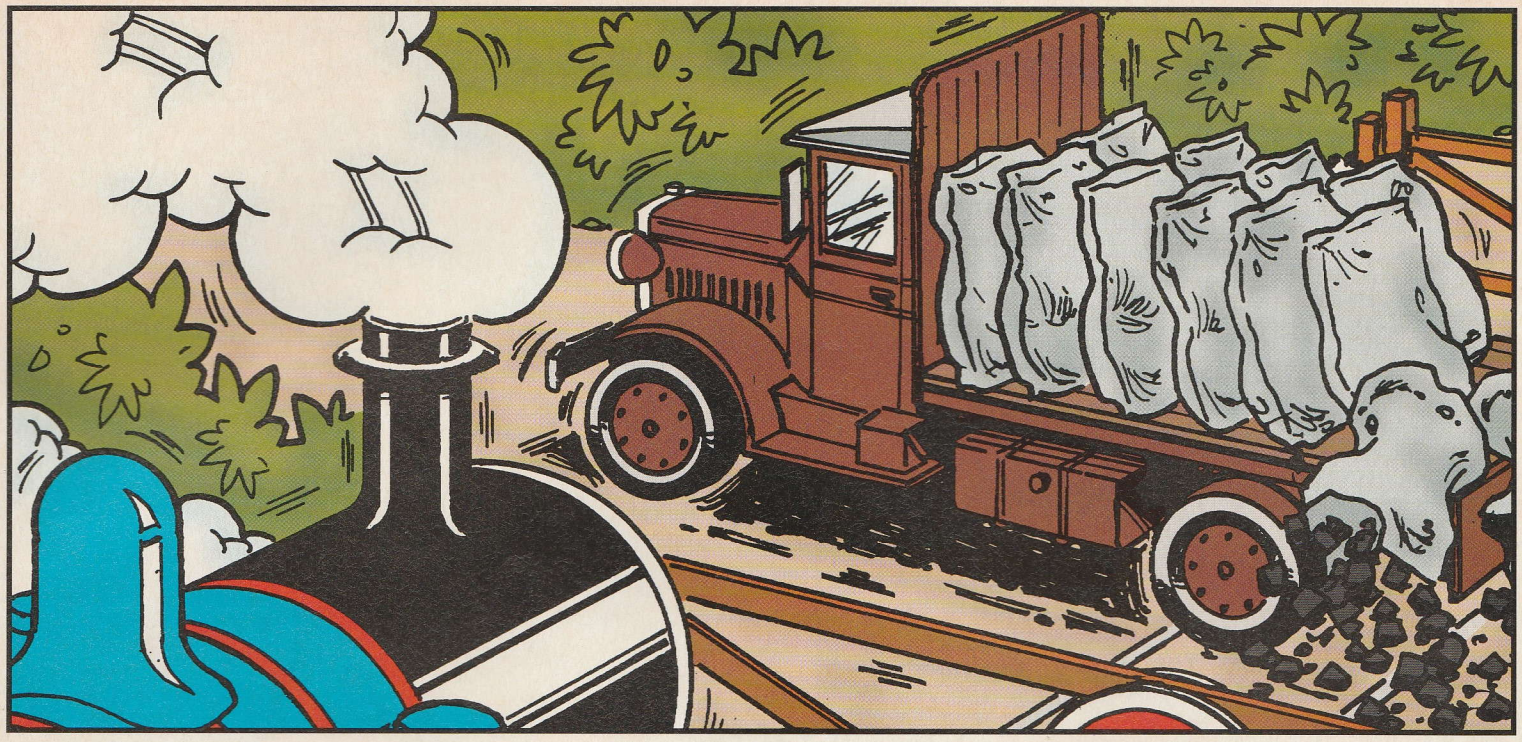
storytime

Carrying coal!



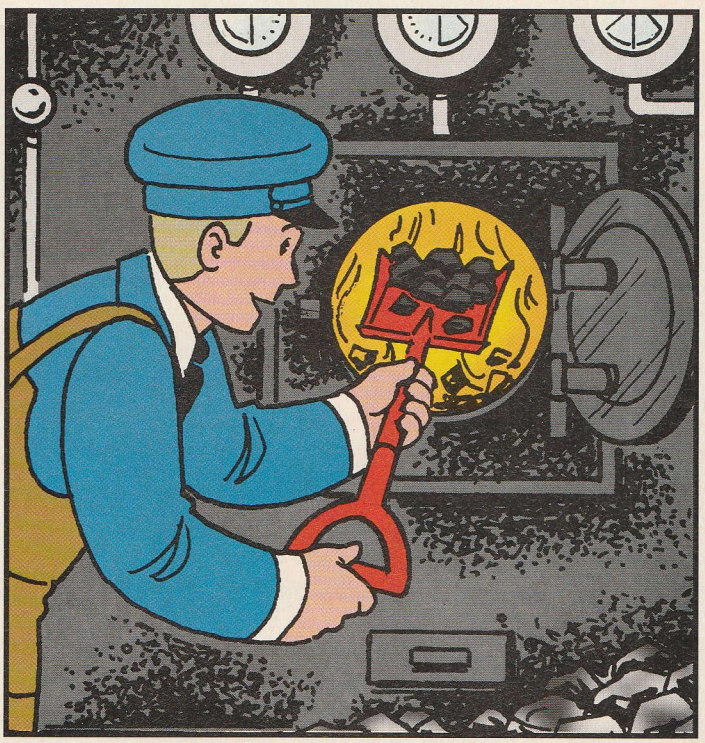
1. Thomas was taking a passenger train along his branch line. He had to pull up at a level crossing where a big coal lorry was waiting. The coalman was Thomas's friend.

2. "Peep! Peep! Hello!" called Thomas. "Beep! Beep!" the coalman parped his lorry's horn and waved. "Don't tell me you want some coal? I've sackfuls of it!" he teased.



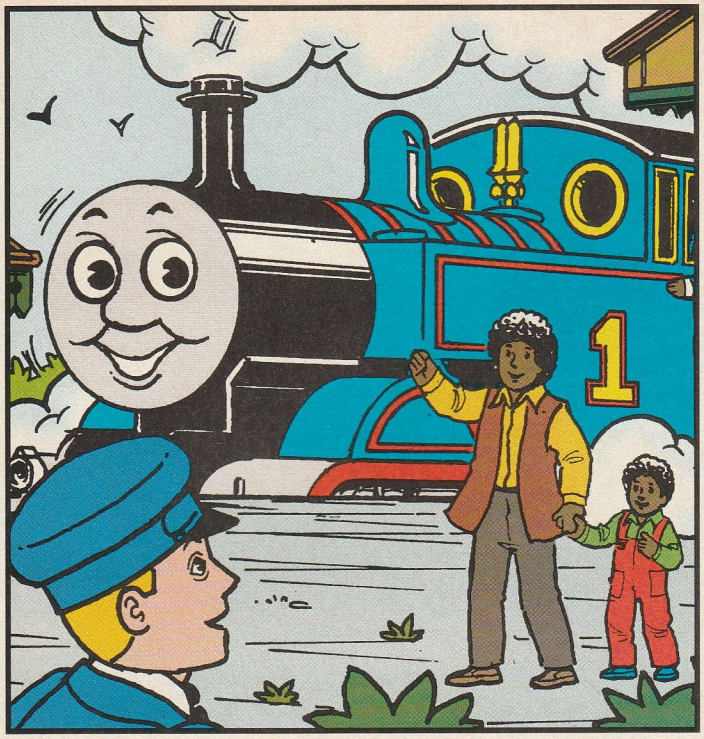
3. But Thomas's coal bunker was nearly full. "Not today, thanks!" laughed his fireman. Thomas huffed and puffed, ready to steam ahead when the crossing gates reopened.

4. As the lorry drove over the line, some coal sacks fell off the back. "Look out!" shouted Thomas. The sacks hit the rails and burst open. Coal scattered everywhere.

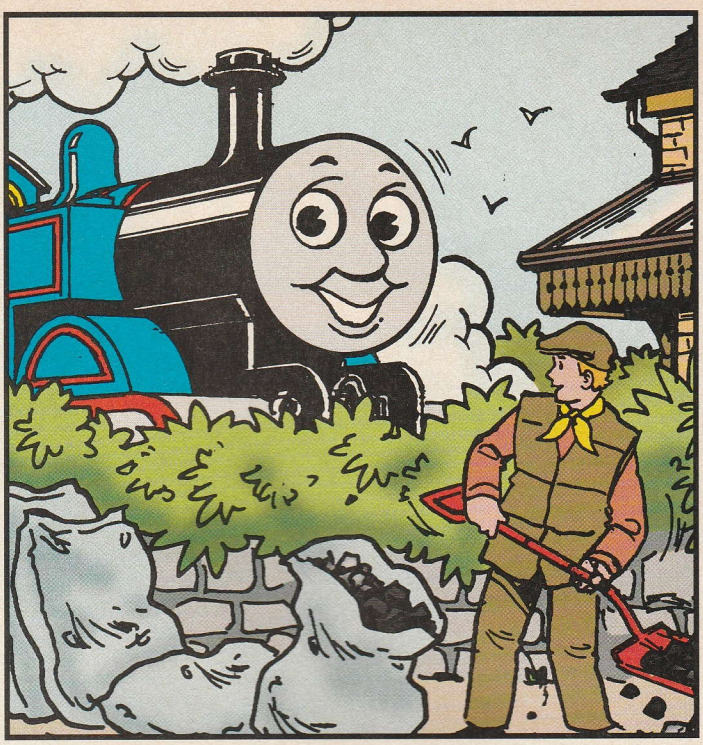


5. "Oh, no! I'll be late!" groaned Thomas. He had to wait for the coalman to shovel up all the coal. "Sorry!" he called to Thomas. "It's not your fault," said the driver.

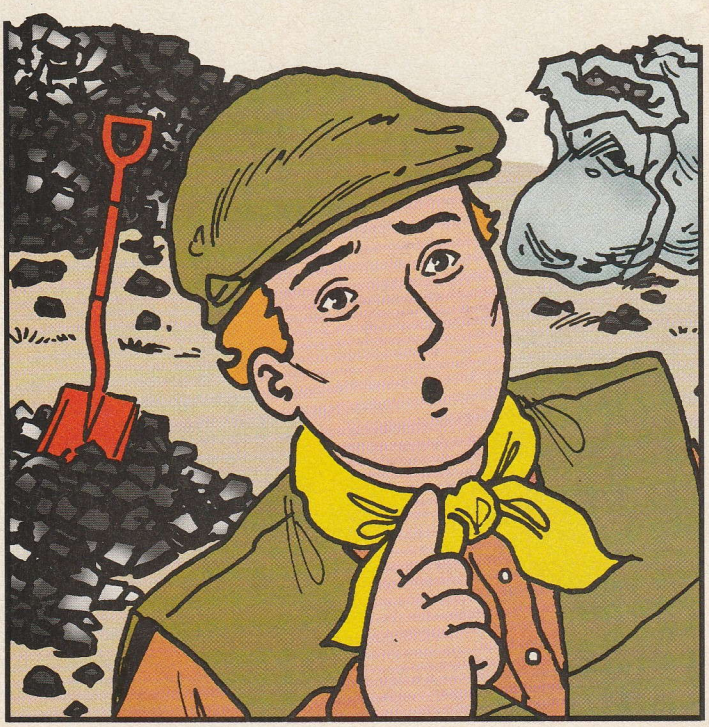
6. At last, the track was clear and Thomas could get underway. His fireman shovelled more coal through Thomas's firehole to help the tank engine get up a good head of steam.



7. Thomas raced off to make up time. He soon caught up the lost time. His passengers were pleased. At the end of his line, Thomas turned round and began the return journey.



8. On his way back, Thomas picked up more passengers. Near one of the stations was the coalman's yard. Thomas saw him loading coal in to sacks, ready for another delivery.

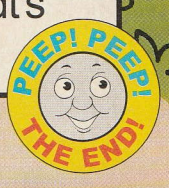


9. "I felt bad about slowing you down earlier," called the coalman. Afterwards, Thomas had only been able to travel so fast because his fireman had worked extra hard.

10. Thomas was about to leave the station when suddenly his fireman felt dizzy. He had to sit down in the Stationmaster's office. "I'll be fine," he told Thomas's driver.

11. The Stationmaster and driver would not let the fireman return to Thomas's cab. "You must rest here," said the Stationmaster, "while I call a doctor." "I'm afraid you'll be delayed again, Thomas," the driver told him. "We can't go on without a fireman." The coalman came to see what was wrong. "Let me take the fireman's place," he said. "I'm used to shovelling coal."

12. As it was an emergency, Thomas's driver agreed. He kept watch as the coalman shovelled coal into Thomas's firebox. Thanks to him, Thomas quickly arrived at the Main Station. A few days later, when his fireman was better, Thomas met the coalman again. "Shovelling sacks of coal is easier than filling Thomas's firebox," he said. "That's really hot work!"



The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to the Fat Controller's Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.

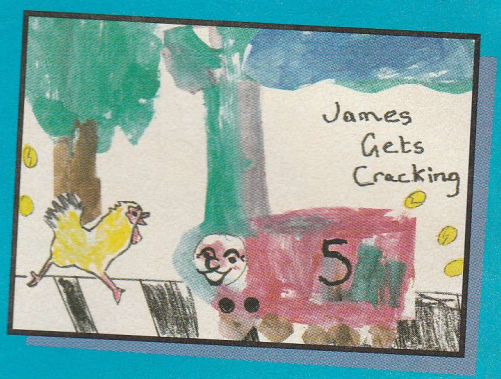
Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Is Daisy the only lady engine?
Love from Toby Gale, aged 2

Don't forget about young Mavis! She works with Toby at the quarry. Although she sometimes thinks she knows it all, with his help she is learning to be a Really Useful engine!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

James gets cracking in this funny picture from Daniel Brown, aged 5!



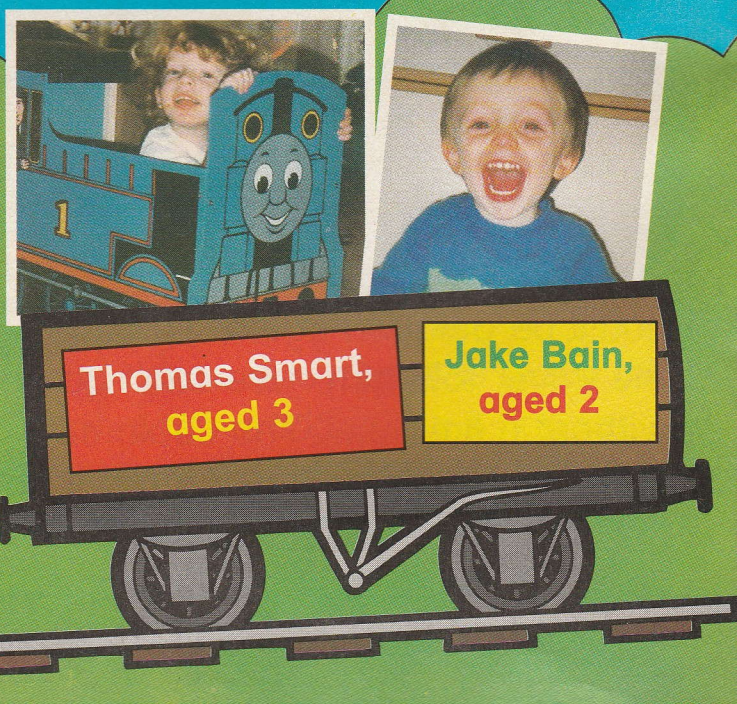
Prize Poem!

Thank you to Kristian Porcu, aged 5, who sent us this splendid poem!

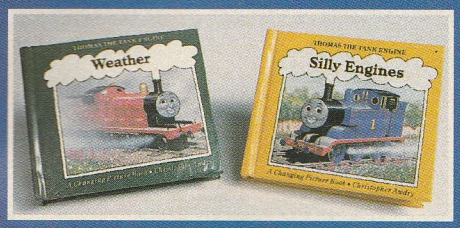
James is very red and shiny
Percy is so very tiny
The Fat Controller wears all black
With a tall, big top hat!
Oh! I wish I could be with you in the sun
Together we'll have such great fun
I'll go on Bertie to the station
And Thomas will take me on vacation!

Happy Birthday

to Michael and Jasmine Connolly, Matthew Hogue, Anthony Jones, Andrew Riding, Mark Roskell and Callum Woodward.



ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Jun Nakajima, aged 5, turns Harold into a rainbow helicopter in this splendid picture!

Ross Manson, aged 7, sent us this cheerful drawing of Ben in the yard.

Percy's Jokes

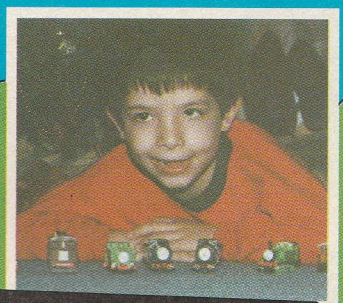
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What game do crocodiles like to play?
Snap!

From
Dylan Quinn, aged 3

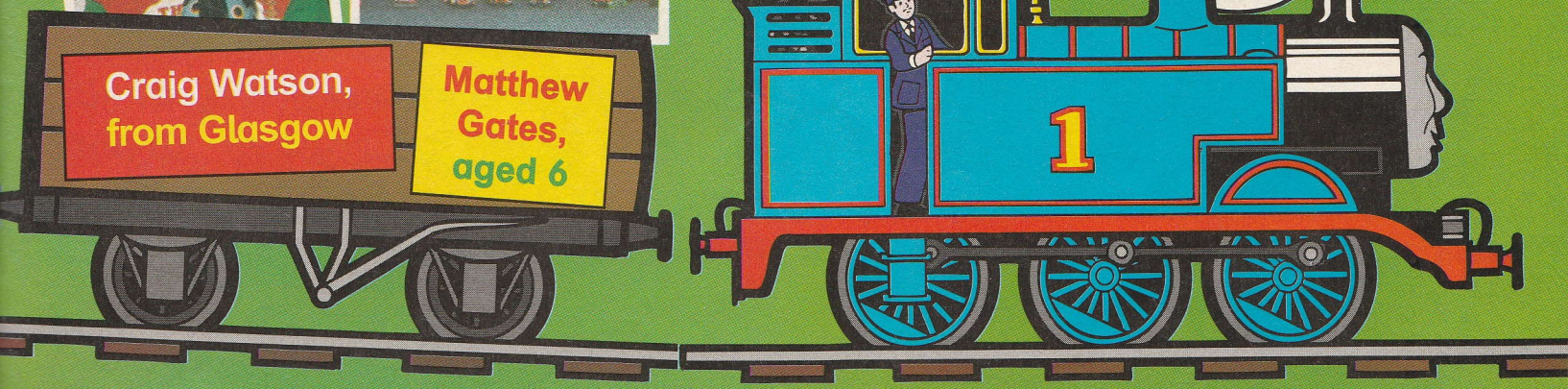
How do you make a sausage roll?
Push it!

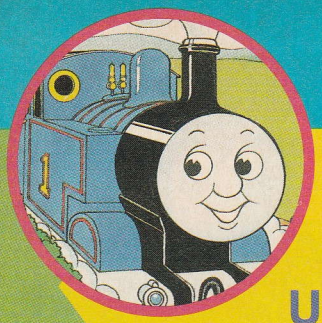
From
Feargal Mulvany, aged 7



Craig Watson, from Glasgow

Matthew Gates, aged 6





Friends of Thomas Events!

All through the year, Friends of Thomas Events give children a chance to meet their favourite engines! Up-and-coming days out in the next few months include:

VENUE	DATE	TELEPHONE
Mangapps Farm Museum, Essex	16-17 March	01621 784898
Bodmin & Wenford Railway, Cornwall	5-8 April	01208 73666
Cholsey & Wallingford, Oxford	5-8 April	not available
Embsay Steam Railway, N. Yorks	5-8 April	01756 795189
East Anglian Railway Museum, Essex	5-8 April	01206 242524
Mid Hants Railway, Hants	5-14 April	01962 733810
North Norfolk Railway, Norfolk	12-14 April	01263 822045

All details correct at time of going to press.
Parents are advised to confirm the event is taking place before setting out.

13 issues for the price of 12!

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Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues) and receive the 13th issue absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 Issues & 13th issue **FREE**) for £17.00 (£27.00 overseas). Prices include postage and packaging.

Child's name ..... **Address** .....

.....

..... **Post code** ..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

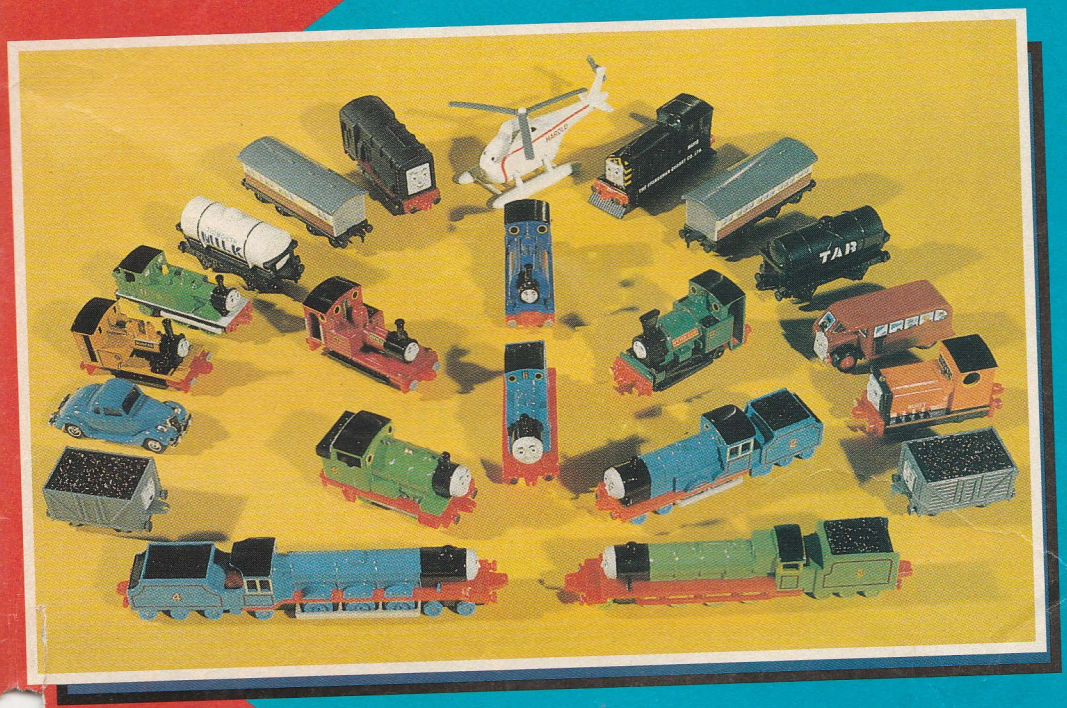
Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**

.....

.....**Post code** .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

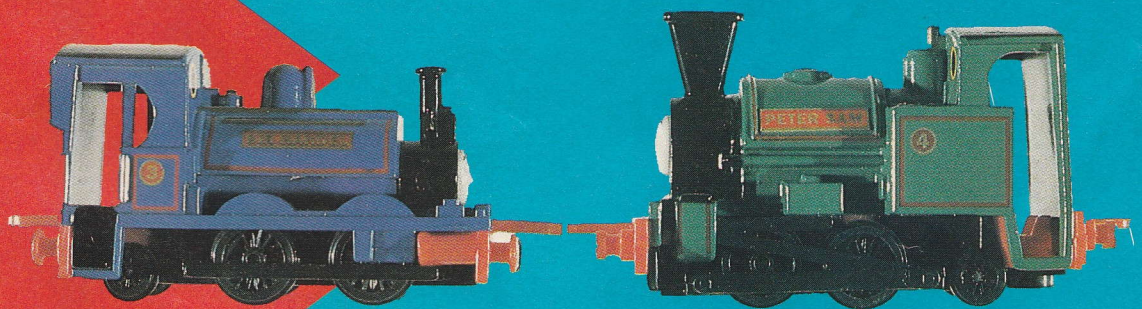
WIN every Thomas diecast engine!

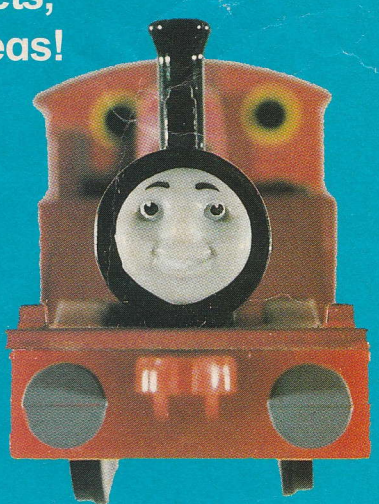


Ertl Europe are the leading manufacturers of the Thomas diecast model toys. They have just introduced some new favourites to their range of models, bringing the number of characters available up to 46!

Now our fantastic competition gives one lucky winner the chance to receive every single model engine and truck in the Ertl range! PLUS a great playtrack! Six runners-up will receive a set of the new models, which includes favourites Peter Sam, Sir Handel and Rheneas!

For your chance to win, answer this question:
What number engine is Oliver?



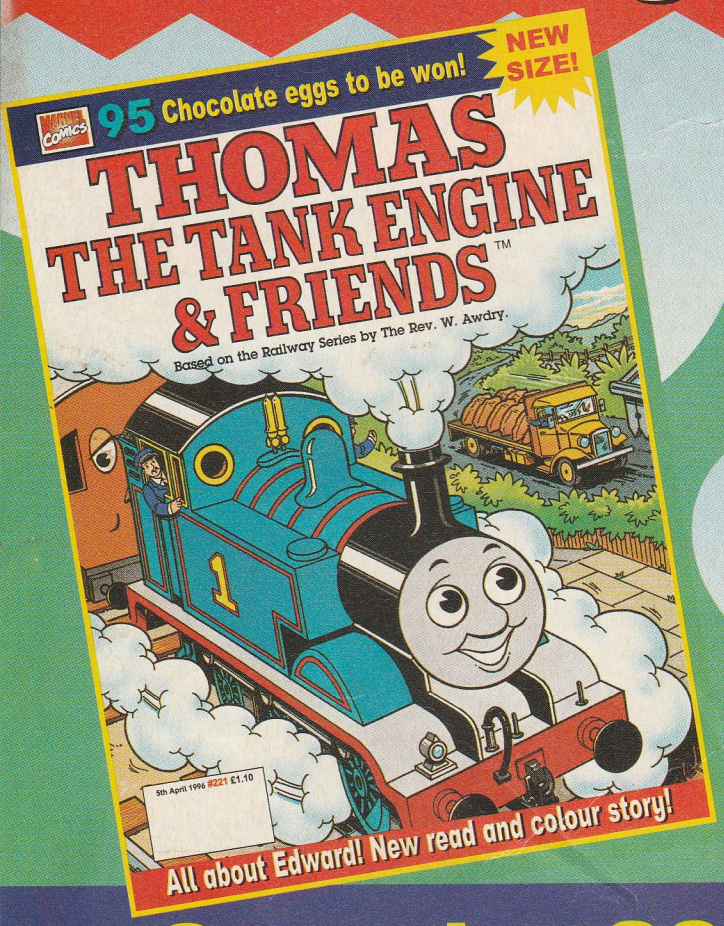


ERTL®

Send your answers on a postcard, along with your name, address and age to: Thomas/Ertl model competition, Marvel Comics Limited, Arundel House, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. All entries must be received by 28 March 1996. The first six correct answers selected after that date will win a prize!

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd and Ertl(Europe) Ltd. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editors decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Coming soon in . . .



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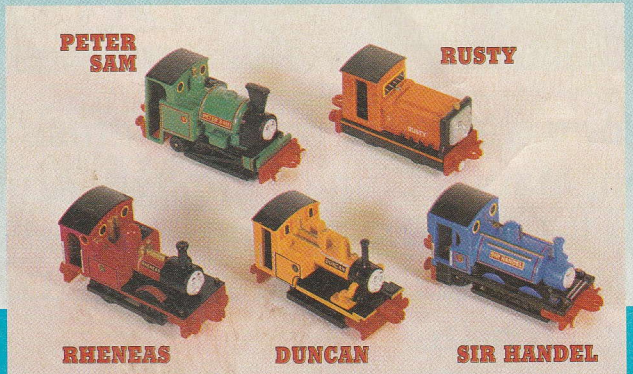

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